



AMERICAN WHEELCHAIR MISSION

A Global Wheelchair Mission Partner



Pulpit Announcement

Fr. _____ and my dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ. My name is _____ and I am the _____ for the Knight of Columbus. On behalf of the Knights, thank you very much for the opportunity to be here today.

The goal of the American Wheelchair Mission is simple, to provide a free wheelchair to anyone in the world who needs one but cannot afford one. This simple goal becomes difficult, however, when you understand that there are over 139 million people, worldwide, who need wheelchairs but cannot afford one.

A wheelchair gives a child an opportunity to play and go to school, an adult an opportunity to go to work and help provide for his or her family, and the elderly a chance to get out of a bed they have been confined in for many, many years. A wheelchair tangibly, and immediately, changes the lives of not only the wheelchair recipients, but also the lives of about ten other people - if you consider family, friends, employers, teachers, and others. Put in a more simple term, a wheelchair gives "hope" and answers prayers.

Since 2003, Knights of Columbus have sponsored the delivery of over 80,000 brand new free wheelchairs to people in dozens of global locations – including such places as the Philippines, Vietnam, Haiti, The Holy Land, Mexico, Africa and here in the United States. The wheelchairs we deliver come in five sizes and could sell in a medical supply store for over \$500 each. But because the wheelchairs are ordered and shipped in sea container quantities of 110 or 280 wheelchairs each, we are able to provide each \$500 wheelchair for every donation of only \$150.

We are oftentimes told by wheelchair recipients that we have just answered their prayers. But the truth is that their prayers are really being answered by God, through donors, just like you; because without your generous love, gifts and prayers, we could do nothing and the poorest of the poor would have no hope. Can you imagine a life with no hope?

Today, there will be a special collection for the American Wheelchair Mission and we are asking for your help in providing hope and answering the prayers of the poorest of the poor. Your tax deductible donations can be made in cash, checks (made payable to The American Wheelchair Mission) or by credit card. If you would like to use your credit card, please see one of the

Knights at the table as you depart. You can give your donations to the ushers in the second collection or to any of the Knights of Columbus who are at the tables outside after Mass. For donations of \$150 or more the American Wheelchair Mission will mail you a beautiful certificate folder with the picture of a wheelchair recipient.

In the prayer of St. Francis we pray, "Where there is despair, let me bring hope". We are here today to ask you to join us on our journey, as we provide the poorest of the poor with freedom.... and mobility..... but most of all..... Hope.

Thank you and God bless.