



## New Cardinals Include Three Knights

**Supreme Knight Anderson attends Rome events inducting new cardinals**

**P**ope Benedict XVI inducted 15 new members into the College of Cardinals March 24. It was the first consistory of his pontificate.

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson attended events at which prelates from 11 countries became cardinals. Included among the new cardinals are three who belong to the Knights of Columbus. They are: Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, a member of Bishop Francis P. Leipzig Council 7729 in Portland, Ore.; Cardinal Gaudencio B. Rosales of Manila, a member of Batangas (Luzon) Council 3347, and Cardinal Sean Patrick O'Malley, OFM Cap of Boston, a member of Blessed Mother Council 13338 in Delray, Fla.

"Knights Orderwide, but especially in the United States and the Philippines, congratulate the new cardinals who are our brother Knights. We pledge our continued solidarity with them in their new roles," Anderson said.

Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dzi-



**Pope Benedict XVI places a ring on Cardinal William Levada's finger in ceremonies at the Vatican March 24.**



**Pope Benedict XVI embraces Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales during the consistory.**



**Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap kisses the hand of Pope Benedict XVI after receiving his ring during a special Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican March 25.**



**Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz is elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican March 24.**

wisz of Krakow, Pope John Paul II's longtime personal secretary, was also among the new members inducted into the College of Cardinals. The Knights of Columbus will charter its first councils in Poland this spring. Cardinal Dziwisz is among the members of the Polish hierarchy supporting the Knights' venture.

At a March 24 prayer service, Pope Benedict told the entire College of Cardinals, which now numbers 193 members, that he counted on them to "proclaim to the world that God is love."

Cardinal Levada addressed the pope on behalf of his fellow cardinals. He said they renewed their commitment of "total love and unconditional fidelity to Christ the Lord and to the Christian people. This love for Jesus Christ and his church, this fidelity to humanity which has a burning thirst for truth, we want to place into your hands," he told the pope. ♦

INCLUDES REPORTING FROM CINDY WOODEN, CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE. PHOTOS: LEVADA: CNS FROM L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO; ROSALES AND O'MALLEY: CNS PHOTO/CHRIS HELGREN, REUTERS; DZIWISZ: CNS PHOTO/TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

FROM  
SUPREME KNIGHT  
CARL A. ANDERSON



## The Antidote to Spring Fever

Everyone I talk to these days is comparing notes about the new season: Have the trees bloomed? Have the temperatures started warming up? Is the grass getting green? At the beginning of spring we are anxious to get outdoors once again and begin cultivating our gardens.

What a perfect metaphor for our own springtime activities in the Knights of Columbus. In fact, spring coincides with our membership blitz information and recruitment drive. If your council has not finalized its plans for the blitz, please do so as soon as possible. Visit the Order's Web site at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) or call our Department of Fraternal Services (203-752-4270) for more information on this central part of your recruitment efforts before the end of the fraternal year June 30.

A little less than three months remain till the end of 2005-06. Given the potential pool of eligible Catholic men who are not Knights, we have our work cut out for us. The place to begin is with the blitz after weekend Masses in your parish.

Let's work together to make the next three months some of the best in our Order's history.

Your council also may be looking for other ways to rejuvenate itself this spring. There is no better place to get a new burst of fraternal spirit than at your state's annual convention. If you have not made plans to attend your convention, do so today.

Our conventions are traditionally a time to celebrate all that we have accomplished during the past year, congratulate all of the hard-working Knights and their spouses, and pray together as brothers and family members, often in the company of many of our priest-chaplains and members of the hierarchy.

The only known remedy for spring fever is activity! So shake off the last of the winter doldrums and get involved in your council, your parish and your community.

Father Michael J. McGivney was a man of prayer and action. We must be as well.

*Vivat Jesus!*

## Knights Report Success With Youth Sports Programs

### International free throw champions to be named in June

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship has long been among the Order's most popular youth programs since its inception in 1972. Young people, ages 10 to 14, regardless of religious affiliation or background, come together to participate in an event that recognizes talent and builds confidence.

The 2005-06 program is currently under way, with most jurisdictions concluding their championships this April. The Supreme Council will name international champions in June.

"[Young people] come back because its unique — we're the only one doing this contest — and anyone can participate," said Bill Louree of St. Philip the Apostle Council 9884 in Lewisville, Texas. Louree said a diocese-wide championship in Fort Worth drew more than 100 youths. "The kids have fun doing it...they encourage each other and it builds their confidence."

In addition to recognizing young people for their talent and participation, the free throw contest plays an important role in building awareness of the Knights within communities.

"We get good participation from our council and it's a good way to recruit fathers of basketball players," said Mario Lobascio, who runs the free throw contest for Msgr. C. G. McCorristin Council 1994 in Woodbury, N.J. "Our council gets exposure; fathers see what we do and they ask questions."

"Adults are totally impressed by how well organized the event is and how many children participate. They are also impressed to find that we, the Knights, offer a program this big to all children, no matter of race or religion," said British Columbia-Yukon District Deputy Ron Fortier. He oversaw participation from six councils in his region that drew more than 750 participants on the local level. "I truly believe that we are successful because we work together as a district and not on an individual council basis," he adds. "When all councils become involved, it also becomes a competi-

tion among ourselves to not let each other down."

A companion youth program is the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge, which kicked off in 2005.

"Both events are good because you're working with different interests — a lot of people who play soccer don't play basketball," said Louis Struble, a member of Father Michael J. McGivney Council 5967 in Austin, Texas. "I think [the soccer challenge] was well accepted and that people will spread the word around. We just have to keep on the advertising."



A participant prepares to shoot in the free throw competition sponsored by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council 7547 in Elizabeth City, N.C.

Overall, both events are excellent ways to boost community involvement and foster council growth.

"[The Free Throw Championship] is one of our projects that we take a lot of pride in," said Dave McGuire of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Council 7547 in Elizabeth City, N.C. "Parents...are very enthusiastic. I get stopped on the street routinely and thanked for having the program and for the Knights in general. We are here to help the community and to help the youth." ♦

# Vocations Films Making Impact in Parishes, Religious Orders

## Councils urged to show films to mark the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, May 7

Three short films that comprise the Knights of Columbus vocations library (*The Vocation to Marriage*, *The Vocation to the Priesthood* and *The Vocation to the Religious Life for Women*) have received acclaim from industry groups and praise from laypeople and religious alike. With two more films — one on the vocation of the lay faithful and another on religious life for men — and perhaps even a study guide in the pipeline, the Knights of Columbus is poised to become the go-to source for religious directors, educators and vocations personnel.

"The intention was to produce a library of films that would address all the vocations within the Church," said Dominican Father Gabriel B. O'Donnell, director of the Order's Catholic Information Service and Chairman of the Supreme Council's vocations committee.

The three current films in the series paint intimate portraits of their subject matter, offering personal testimonies from people working in their chosen vocations, as well as citing Scripture and other religious writings.

"Because we live in a culture that uses media, I thought [the DVDs] would be a perfect fit," explained Gary Maccaroni, pastoral associate at St. Ann's Parish in Lawrenceville, N.J., who ordered multiple copies of *The Vocation to Marriage* for his marriage preparation work. "I had been looking for something to get people engaged in the theological aspect of marriage," he continues, adding that he even gave copies of the film to couples within his parish to evaluate.

According to John M. Capobianco, president of Lumen Catechetical Consultants and executive producer for the entire series, Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson initially conceived the project a few years ago following the sexual scandals within the priesthood. "He recognized that there were good priests that were being dragged into the hole. He wanted the Knights to stand up and rearticulate the beauty and wisdom of the priesthood," explained Capobianco, a member of

Father Rosensteel Council 2169 in Silver Spring, Md. From this was born the idea to create a series of short films about all of the vocations within the Church: lay, religious and ordained.

Audience response to the films has been overwhelmingly positive. More than 7,000 copies of *The Vocation to Marriage* alone have been ordered, not counting those included in mass mailings.

Three vocations titles are available, and two more are in production.

"This way of contacting people is very important; young people respond to the technology," said Mother Virginia Marie, a Discalced Carmelite and prioress of The Carmel of Port Tobacco, in La Plata, Md. She purchased 50 copies of *The Vocation to the Religious Life for Women* to show at the convent and to distribute to

young women considering a role in the religious order. "The content is very real and sincere. It gives one the opportunity to see other expressions of religious life."

"When you're using something with young people you want the production quality to be very high," said Father Leo Kosch of St. Mary's Parish in Davey, Neb. and a member of St. Mary and Joseph Council 8625 in Valparaiso. "I really appreciate how [the movies] were so affordable. With these DVDs, we'll reach around 120 kids this year. I just appreciate the Knights of Columbus offering this service."

Capobianco said scripts for the final two films are being finalized and the idea is to create a lesson plan for each film and to market the series together as a complete vocations video library. In the meantime, the existing videos — *The Vocation to Marriage* (R05LC), *The Vocation to the Priesthood* (R03LC) and *The Vocation to the Religious Life for Women* (R06LC) — are available through the Department of Fraternal Services at 203-752-4270. Shipping is \$3 for one or two videos and \$5 for three to five. ♦

## Vietnamese Catholics Honor Mary



A statue honoring the Virgin Mary as Our Lady of Bai Dau is carried in procession at Our Lady of Lavang Parish in Baltimore March 19. Officers of the newly chartered Our Lady of Lavang Council 13982 at the parish were installed after the procession and Mass. Since February 2005 the statue has been carried by the Knights of Columbus to Vietnamese Catholic communities and parishes throughout the United States. A prayer service honoring Our Lady of Bai Dau is the centerpiece of these parish visits. The statue is a replica of a 65-foot-tall statue of Mary in the coastal city of Vung Tau, Vietnam. After the fall of Saigon in 1975, as tens of thousands of Vietnamese fled their homeland by boat, the Vung Tau statue was the last image many of them had of their country.



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## Annuity Program Changes Benefit You

BY THOMAS P. SMITH JR.  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
(AGENCIES AND MARKETING)

Owners of Knights of Columbus annuities are now the recipients of a new fraternal benefit: the waiver of annuity surrender charges under the Medical Withdrawal Option (MWO). The MWO (provided at no cost by the way) allows the annuitant to withdraw all or part of the accumulation value of the annuity with no surrender charge, provided that:

- 1.) The annuitant has a medical condition that is expected to result in death within 12 months, or
- 2.) The annuitant undergoes a major organ transplant, suffers major burns, or is diagnosed as having life-threatening cancer, heart attack, unstable angina, stroke, end-stage kid-

ney disease, paralysis or coma, or

3.) The annuitant is confined in a licensed skilled nursing facility for at least 60 consecutive days.

The MWO is available once the accumulation value of the annuity is \$5,000 or more, and became available Feb. 1, 2006, for both existing and newly issued annuities. To be eligible, the annuitant must have a qualifying medical condition that commenced after Feb. 1, 2006, or the date you started your annuity, whichever is later.

Please note that any waiver of Knights of Columbus surrender charges will have no effect on any tax reporting, tax withholding or tax penalty that may be imposed by the U.S. or Canadian governments.

There are a number of additional restrictions and conditions that apply to the MWO. Please contact your local professional Knights of Columbus agent for complete details. Each annuitant will receive a certificate of coverage from his agent on or

near the next policy anniversary. With the exception of locked-in RRSP's in Canada, virtually all Knights of Columbus annuities are covered under the MWO. This includes tax-deferred annuities, IRA's (traditional & ROTH), and RRSP's (Canada). As a reminder, surrender

charges are also waived in the event of the death of the annuitant.

The Knights of Columbus

Flexible Premium Annuity Plan provides our members and their families with a safe and secure place to accumulate funds on a tax-favored basis. Your Order strives to offer the most competitive interest rates possible while absolutely guaranteeing the safety of deposited funds.

Don't have a Knights of Columbus Annuity Plan? You can start an annuity with a deposit of as little as \$300 — but no deposit is too large. Why not start building your nest egg by calling your professional Knights of Columbus agent today? ♦

A new fraternal benefit  
for owners of Knights  
of Columbus annuities