A Threat to the Very Essence of Religious Liberty

Supreme Knight’s Message to U.S. State Conventions Addresses HHS Mandate

Responding to a recent threat to the essence of religious liberty in the United States that also directly affects the future of the Knights of Columbus, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson focused his annual video address for U.S. state conventions on the federal health insurance mandate. He prepared a second video address on the state of the Order as a whole for Canada, Mexico and Poland state conventions.

“I am sure that by now you have heard about the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ health insurance mandate that will force Catholic organizations to provide health insurance plans for their employees that will provide sterilization, contraception and abortifacient drugs,” the supreme knight said. This mandate is compulsory for every Catholic organization and institution, and is also mandatory for the Knights of Columbus, he noted.

Under the mandate, the Knights of Columbus will be forced to use membership dues and the money generated through insurance sales to fund a health care plan for employees that would provide drugs and procedures that violate Catholic moral teaching on the transmission and sanctity of human life, he continued, adding that constitutional scholars have described the mandate as “unconstitutional” and “illegal.”

The supreme knight described the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ fight against the bill and the call for Congress to pass legislation to protect the religious liberty rights of all Americans.

“Our own Supreme Chaplain, Bishop William Lori, has been chosen by our nation’s bishops to lead a newly established special committee of bishops on religious liberty,” Anderson said. “As Knights, we can be proud that Bishop Lori has courageously helped to rally so many against this assault on religious freedom.”

The supreme knight said that this is not only a

See Address Page 5

United for Religious Freedom

A Statement of the Administrative Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

March 14, 2012

On behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop-designate William E. Lori testifies before a subcommittee of the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., last October. (CNS photo/Joshua Roberts) Related article: Supreme Chaplain Named Archbishop (see page 7)

This is the official text released by the USCCB.

The Administrative Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, gathered for its March 2012 meeting, is strongly unified and intensely focused in its opposition to the various threats to religious freedom in our day. In our role as bishops, we approach this question prayerfully and as pastors—concerned not only with the protection of the Church’s own institutions, but with the care of the souls of the individual faithful, and with the common good.

To address the broader range of religious liberty issues, we look forward to the upcoming publication of “A Statement on Religious Liberty,” a document of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty. This document reflects on the history of religious liberty in our great nation; surveys the current range of threats to this foundational principle; and states clearly the resolve of the Bishops to act strongly, in concert with our fellow citizens, in its defense.

One particular religious freedom issue demands our immediate attention: the now-finalized rule of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that would force virtually all private health plans nationwide to provide coverage of sterilization and contraception—including abortifacient drugs—subject to an exemption for “religious employers” that is arbitrarily narrow, and to an unspecified and dubious future “accommodation” for other religious organizations that are denied the exemption.

We begin, first, with thanks to all who have stood firmly with us in our vigorous opposition to this unjust and illegal mandate: to our brother bishops; to our clergy and

See Liberty Page 6
Deadline for Star Council

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, Founders' 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, or conduct one or more of the “Featured Programs,” and meet the minimum participation requirements to fulfill all program requirements in that service program category. Use the Columbian Award Application found in the Council Report Forms Booklet (#1436) or on the Order’s website by June 30, achieving associate member quota, and achieving 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 at the Supreme Council before noon EDT on June 29, to be counted toward 2011-12 fraternal year quotas. All insurance policies must be issued and released by June 30 in order to count for the 2011-12 fraternal year quotas.

Fourth Degree Awards

Remember that assemblies that have conducted four or more patriotic programs during the fraternal year are eligible for the Supreme Council Civic Award. The Civic Award application is found on the Order’s website at kofc.org and in the Assembly Report Forms Booklet (#325). Submit the form to the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Services before June 30.

100 Percent Reporting

The annual Survey of Fraternal Activity is how the Knights of Columbus best tells the story of its work for those in need, both financially and in time given. Councils, assemblies and circles can and should still submit their 2011 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) to the Supreme Council office. A push is on to get 100 percent of councils in each jurisdiction to submit a Fraternal Survey by June 1, to ensure our contribution numbers and volunteer hours can be the highest ever.

RSVP Form Due

The Refund Support Vocations Program Refund/Plaque Application (#2883), found on the Order’s website and in the Council Report Forms Booklet (#1436), must be completed and submitted to the Supreme Council office between now and June 30. The canceled check for the donation must be attached to the application. Applications without copies of the canceled check(s) or proof of a check being cashed by a recipient will not be honored. Councils must submit the application to qualify for the refund and/or the plaque award.

DD Reminder

Now Digital

The February issue of District Deputy Reminder was the last issue to be mailed. As always it will continue to be posted online at kofc.org (in the Officers section under Leadership Communications) in a printable format on the first working day of the month. No internet capability? Let us know and we will mail it to you. Send your name, address, town, state, postal code and country with your district number to Richard McMunn, Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510.

‘Be Not Afraid!’ Membership Campaign

As a way to thank recruiters and honor the beatification of Blessed John Paul II, the Knights of Columbus is continuing the “Be Not Afraid!” membership campaign. Here are the campaign incentives: As begun on July 1, 2011, recruiters that bring in at least one new member per month receive a Blessed John Paul II medallion for that month.

An additional incentive began on Dec. 1, 2011 and will run through the end of the campaign on June 29, 2012 at noon (EDT): Recruiters who bring in a minimum of four new members will receive a large, specially struck Blessed John Paul II medallion with a display stand. When a council recruits a minimum of six new members during the “Be Not Afraid!” membership campaign, their council chaplain will receive a specially struck Blessed John Paul II medallion with display stand.

A member degree certificate (#268) is available from the Supply Department to present to new members that have taken their First Degree in honor of the beatification of Blessed John Paul II.

Honor Our Founder and Join the Guild

One of the best ways to honor our founder is to join the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild. The guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney. The guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics. Guild members receive regular updates on the progress of the cause for canonization of Father McGivney, who has been declared Venerable by the Vatican, and are invited to participate in promoting devotion to him. Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically guild members and must elect to join the guild. The Father Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter is published bimonthly except July—August, and is sent free to guild members. To join the guild go to fathermcmcgivney.org or write to the address below.

Requests for information about Father McGivney, materials regarding his cause for canonization and accounts of any favors received through his intercession can be directed to The Father McGivney Guild, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326.

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.
Knights in Shining Armor

Getting new members active in the many facets of the Knights of Columbus is the concept behind the “Shining Armor Award.”

Recruiting new members to a council is commendable but even more commendable is when those recruited members take an active role as early as possible.

The “Shining Armor Award” is given to those men who exemplify the true characteristics of a Knight. To qualify for the “Shining Armor Award,” first year Knights must:

- Be involved in at least three council service programs.
- Attend at least three business meetings.
- Receive their Second and Third degrees.
- Meet with their council’s insurance representative.
- Recruit at least one new member.
- Keep in mind that the main focus of the program is to get new members actively involved within their council from the very beginning. Councils can order materials for this program through the Supreme Council Supply Department by using a Requisition Form (#1). Materials available for councils to order are:
  - Qualification Cards (#4292) — Help new members keep track of their progress toward attaining the “Shining Armor Award” as their grand knight verifies each completed requirement.
  - Certificate of Recognition (#4293) — A special way to commemorate the hard work of these new Knights.
  - “Shining Armor” Lapel Pins (#1700) — These will not only be an honor for those who earn them to wear, but they will also serve as a promotion for the program to other new Knights. These pins are available for $3 each.

The Refund Support Vocations Program

Under the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) councils and assemblies “adopt” one or more seminarians or postulants. K of C units provide adopted seminarians or postulants with financial assistance, and moral support or both. At the end of the fraternal year, qualifying councils and assemblies receive a $100 refund for every $500 given to a seminarian and/or postulant. K of C units that provide substantial moral support to seminarians or postulants receive a plaque. In the Philippines and Mexico, councils and assemblies receive the equivalent in local currency of $50 for every $250 donated. Councils, and assemblies should contact pastors for the names of seminarians or postulants needing assistance.

Under RSVP, seminarians are defined as men enrolled in first formation programs for priesthood (minor seminary, college seminary or theological seminary programs.) Postulants are defined as men or women enrolled in first formation programs for religious life (postulancy, novitiate). This also applies to secular institutes.

Faced with higher tuition and living costs, seminarians and postulants often find themselves with little money for personal use. Funds donated by K of C units provide the recipients with tuition assistance, pocket cash or emergency money. To qualify for a refund, councils, assemblies and circles must meet these requirements:

- A minimum of $500 ($100 for circles) must be given during the July 1–June 30 fraternal year.
- Payment must be made from council, assembly or circle funds to an individual seminarian or postulant (not a general fund) for some vocation-related expense.
- Councils and assemblies may divide a $500 gift between two beneficiaries and still receive a refund. Refunds will not be given for $500 donations with more than two recipients.
- Councils or assemblies can adopt seminarians or postulants outside their diocese or immediate area.

To apply for a refund a K of C unit must submit the Refund Support Vocations Program Refund/Plaque Application (#2863) to the Supreme Council office by June 30 of the fraternal year for which the refund is applied. The form is found at kofc.org/forms or in Council Report Forms Booklet (#1436), and the Assembly Report Forms Booklet (#325).

The moral support provided to seminarians and postulants through RSVP cannot be measured in monetary terms. This support, whether it be letters, visits or other personal contact, reaffirms the recipients in the choice they’ve made. In addition, through these contacts Knights will come to know their adopted seminarian or postulant and gain a better understanding of vocations. This can help Knights in promoting vocations in their own parishes, neighborhoods and families. In some cases, it may even prompt a Knight to consider his own vocation.

To qualify for a plaque a council, assembly or circle must show ongoing and substantial contact with the adopted seminarian/postulant, and active participation in local parish vocation efforts. To receive a plaque, minimum requirements are:

- Write at least four letters during the year to the seminarian or postulant.
- If possible, visit the seminarian or postulant, or invite him or her to a K of C function.
- Work with a local parish on vocation events.
- Submit the Refund Support Vocations Program Refund/Plaque Application (#2863) to the Supreme Council Vocations Committee.

These requirements for refunds and plaques are the minimum levels of giving. Councils and assemblies participating in RSVP are encouraged to provide as much support as possible, both financially and morally, to their adopted seminarians and postulants. This support helps someone travel the road to the priesthood or religious life.
Sample Press Release for Election of Council Officers

Now is the time of the year when your council will be electing its leaders for the coming fraternal year. Let your community know about these dedicated Knights by issuing a press release to media sources such as newspapers, diocesan publications, parish bulletins, and radio and television stations in your area. Use this sample release, including a local contact name and phone number and fill in the specific information from your council, as the model for your notice. If possible, hand deliver this release to the appropriate person; if not, mail or email it and then follow up with a phone call in a couple of days to make sure the release was received and answer any questions. If your release is used, be sure to call or drop a note of thanks to the editor.

For more tips on generating publicity for your council see the Getting Your Message Across – Knights of Columbus Public Relations and Publicity Guide (#2235) (a copy of which is included in the Surge Kit sent to the council each fraternal year) or go to the “Council” portion of www.kofc.org/service.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KNIgHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNOUNCeS NeW OFFICeRS

(City, State/Province – Date) (Name of Council) Knights of Columbus Council (number) in (city) today announced its new officers for (year).

The officers are: Grand Knight or local president (name/town), Chaplain (name/town), Deputy Grand Knight (name/town), Chancellor (name/town), and Recorder (name/town).

Other officers are: Financial Secretary (name/town), Treasurer (name/town), Lecturer (name/town), Advocate (name/town), Warden (name/town), and Guards (name/town).

The Board of Trustees includes: (names/towns).

Grand Knight (last name) has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for (number) years, serving in the positions of (list positions). A resident of (city), Grand Knight (last name) is (occupation, company and location). He resides at (address) with his (wife/children, list names).

With 1.8 million members, the Knights of Columbus is the world’s largest Catholic family fraternal service organization. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, the community, families and young people. In (year), the Knights of Columbus at all levels of the organization raised and distributed $(number) million to charity and rendered (number) million hours of volunteer service.

RSVP Donations Increase in 2011

Even in an economic downturn, Knights of Columbus RSVP support for vocations is up. Specifically, Knights raised and disbursed more than $3 million to 2,628 seminarians and postulants in 2011 through RSVP. In 2010, Knights reported donating $2.9 million to help 2,697 students.

The program offers an opportunity for local units to provide financial and moral support to people studying to become a priest, brother or religious sister. Most units donate $500 to the student for his or her personal use. RSVP also urges participating groups to show moral support for the student by e-mailing, writing letters and inviting them to K of C functions.

Participating units that qualify are eligible for a $100 rebate from the Supreme Council for every $500 donated, with a cap on rebates for one individual at $400. In 2011, refunds totaled nearly $600,000. In addition to the Supreme Council refund, qualifying units receive a plaque honoring them for the moral support they provided.

Since the start of the RSVP, nearly $53 million has been raised and donated to seminarians and postulants; refunds from the Supreme Council total $9.7 million.

Knights Respond to Devastating Tornadoes

A man helps clear debris from the ruins of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Ridgway, Ill. (CNS photo/ Jim Young, Reuters)

Knights are helping their neighbors and communities clean up following outbreaks of deadly tornadoes in late February and early March. Across the Midwest and southern parts of the United States, the tornadoes left dozens of people dead and caused millions of dollars in property damage. The wave of storms affected more than 10 states, destroying farm equipment, homes, businesses and, in some cases, entire towns.

Within days, Knights had mobilized to help their stricken communities. In southern Indiana, for instance, District Deputy William J. McDonald coordinated relief efforts in the towns surrounding Henryville, located about 95 miles south of Indianapolis. Knights there began collecting cleaning supplies, power tools, baby items, toiletries and clothing, as well as funds for the state council’s charity fund. “Response has been great; donations are rolling in daily,” said McDonald in an email that was forwarded to the Supreme Council.

In 2011, the Supreme Council provided more than $175,000 to supplement U.S. disaster relief projects. To contribute to local relief efforts this year, visit kofc.org/disaster to donate online or send checks to: Knights of Columbus Charities, 1 Columbus Plaza, P.O. Box 1966, New Haven, CT 06509-1966. Please write “U.S. Disaster Relief” in the memo line of your check.

(CNS photo/Paul Haring)
Catholic issue, and that thousands of Protestant ministers have publicly opposed the mandate.

In addition, he described the recently proposed “accommodation” to religious organizations as entirely inadequate and unacceptable. “The fact remains that the Knights of Columbus and other Catholic organizations will be forced to purchase health insurance plans for their employees and those plans will provide services that violate our moral beliefs,” he said, referring to the plan for health insurance companies, rather than religious employers, to pay for the objectionable services.

“Though we have never before faced such an assault on our religious liberty, the Knights of Columbus has successfully defended religious liberty before in our country,” Anderson said. As examples, he cited the 2009 debate before HHS-requiring employers to purchase health insurance plans for their employees and those plans will provide services that violate our moral beliefs,” he said, referring to the plan for health insurance companies, rather than religious employers, to pay for the objectionable services.

“We now face a difficult time of great challenge,” said Supreme Knight Anderson. “We have faced an assault on our religious liberty, the Knights of Columbus has successfully defended religious liberty before in our country,” Anderson said. As examples, he cited the 2009 debate in which the Knights of Columbus worked with the Church in Connecticut to defeat a state bill that would have taken financial control of parishes away from the Church, and the more recent case in Montana in which Knights invoked First Amendment protections to defend the public display of a World War II memorial that includes a statue of Christ.

“In response to the HHS mandate, the supreme knight asked state and local councils, and all Knights and their families, to do the following:

1. Pass a resolution at the state convention in support of religious liberty.
2. At each council meeting, recite the prayer for religious liberty that the bishops have asked all Catholics to pray.
3. Contact elected officials and urge them to pass legislation supported by the bishops to protect religious liberty.

Anderson added: “We now face a difficult time of great challenge,” said Supreme Knight Anderson. “A standard has been raised and we have been summoned. Generations of faithful brother Knights before us have sacrificed greatly to defend our Church. The cause is freedom. Now it is our turn.”

April - Church Recruitment Drive

April is a time for prolific growth, both for nature and the Knights of Columbus.

Every council will benefit from growth in new members. As the apostles were the fishers’ of men, council members and especially the officers need to be fishers of new members. The first step is to set the date, time, and location. The second is to conduct a First Degree Ceremonial, which will be conducted by the council’s officers and order any necessary supplies. Set up a schedule for volunteers and make certain to have eye-appealing displays of your council’s activities.

The overall goal is to use the opportunity to recruit at every Mass at every parish. In doing so, every council has the ability to catch up or forge ahead on the way to Star Council for the fraternal year 2011-12.

Be sure to contact a valuable recruiting ally — your local general or field agent. Be prepared with a presentation in each parish that details the programs and activities of your council. Advance the prospects into the council as soon as possible, and be sure to conduct the First Degree ceremony frequently and when it is convenient for the candidates.

A coordinated membership church drive is an all-out effort to maximize your membership team efforts by canvassing an entire parish on one weekend, gathering the names of prospective new members for follow-up.

The Preparation Phase

- Obtain the pastor’s permission to conduct a church drive during a specific weekend.
- Advertise the event weekly in the parish bulletin building up to when it is held.
- Order recruitment materials from the Supreme Council Supply Department.
- Inform the insurance representatives about the dates of the recruitment drive.

The Implementation Phase

- Set up informational tables at every door of the church. Have plenty of prospect cards and pencils on hand to distribute to each man as he enters the church.
- Arrange for a membership recruitment announcement to be made during Mass by the priest endorsing the council.
- Have brother Knights on hand to answer questions and to collect prospect referral cards or names and contact information as men leave the church with their families.

The Follow-Up Phase

- Personal contact must be made with every prospect within 48 hours.
- Inform each prospect and his family of the date, time and location for the informational seminar, and invite them.
- Offer transportation if necessary.

The Orientation Phase

- Request that your council’s chaplain start the event with a prayer and some words about the Order and its mission.
- Consider showing one of the recruitment videos available from the Supreme Council Supply Department.
- Make the requirements for membership known to those assembled.
- Offer each prospect a Membership Document (#100) to fill out before the event’s conclusion.
- Have brother Knights on hand to assist prospects in completing these forms.
- Conclude the event with some light refreshments.
- Inform the candidates of the date of the First Degree.

The First Degree Ceremonial

- Schedule a First Degree no more than two weeks after your informational session.
- Contact the candidates to remind them of the degree date.
- Ensure they have transportation to the location.
- Order degree certificates from the Supreme Council Supply Department as a fitting way to recognize your new brother Knights.
- Don’t let the new members leave the degree without getting them involved and explaining the Shining Armor Award program.

Recruiters that recruit 4 new members between December 1 and June 29 will receive a Blessed John Paul II desk medallion.
religious; to our Catholic faithful; to the wonderful array of Catholic groups and institutions that enliven our civil society; to our ecumenical and interfaith allies; to women and men of all religions (or none at all); to legal scholars; and to civic leaders. It is your enthusiastic unity in defense of religious freedom that has made such a dramatic and positive impact in this historic public debate. With your continued help, we will not be divided, and we will continue forward as one.

Second, we wish to clarify what this debate is—and is not—about. This is not about access to contraception, which is ubiquitous and inexpensive, even when it is not provided by the Church’s hand and with the Church’s funds. This is not about the religious freedom of Catholics only, but also of those who recognize that their cherished beliefs may be next on the block. This is not about the Bishops’ somehow “banning contraception,” when the U.S. Supreme Court took that issue off the table two generations ago. Indeed, this is not about the Church wanting to force anybody to do anything; it is instead about the federal government forcing the Church—consisting of its faithful and all but a few of its institutions—to act against Church teachings. This is not a matter of opposition to universal health care, which has been a concern of the Bishops’ Conference since 1919, virtually at its founding. This is not a fight we want or asked for, but one forced upon us by government on its own timing. Finally, this is not a Republican or Democratic, a conservative or liberal issue; it is an American issue.

So what is it about?

An unwarranted government definition of religion. The mandate includes an extremely narrow definition of what HHS deems a “religious employer” deserving exemption—employers who, among other things, must hire and serve primarily those of their own faith. We are deeply concerned about this new definition of who we are as people of faith and what constitutes our ministry. The introduction of this unprecedented defining of faith communities and their ministries has precipitated this struggle for religious freedom. Government has no place defining religion and religious ministry. HHS thus creates and enforces a new distinction—alien both to our Catholic tradition and to federal law—between our houses of worship and our great ministries of service to our neighbors, namely, the poor, the homeless, the sick, the students in our schools and universities, and others in need, of any faith community or none. Cf. Deus Caritas Est, Nos. 20-33. We are commanded both to love and to serve the poor, the student, the sick, the student in our schools and universities, and others in need, of any faith community or none. We have consistently supported these religious beliefs or moral convictions. We have consistently supported these

services” contrary to those values—whether in their sponsoring of, and payment for, insurance as employers; their payment of insurance premiums as employees; or as insurers themselves—without even the semblance of an exemption. This, too, is unprecedented in federal law, which has long been generous in protecting the rights of individuals not to act against their religious beliefs or moral convictions. We have consistently supported these rights, particularly in the area of protecting the dignity of all human life, and we continue to do so.

Third, we want to indicate our next steps. We will continue our vigorous efforts at education and public advocacy on the principles of religious liberty and their application in this case (and others). We will continue to accept any invitation to dialogue with the Executive Branch to protect the religious freedom that is rightly ours. We will continue to pursue legislation to restore the same level of religious freedom we have enjoyed until just recently. And we will continue to explore our options for relief from the courts, under the U.S. Constitution and other federal laws that protect religious freedom. All of these efforts will proceed concurrently, and in a manner that is mutually reinforcing.

Most importantly of all, we call upon the Catholic faithful, and all people of faith, throughout our country to join us in prayer and penance for our leaders and for the complete protection of our First Freedom—religious liberty—which is not only protected in the laws and customs of our great nation, but rooted in the teachings of our great Tradition. Prayer is the ultimate source of our strength—for without God, we can do nothing; but with God, all things are possible.

**Elect Officers for the 2012-2013 Fraternal Year**

Now is the time to consider who will lead your council for the 2012-2013 fraternal year. Most councils traditionally hold elections at a regular business meeting between May 15 and June 15.

Sections 126 and 128 of the laws of the Knights of Columbus require members each year to elect a grand knight, deputy grand knight, chancellor, recorder, treasurer, advocate, warden, inside and outside guards, and trustees. Except for trustees, who may serve terms of up to three years, the new officers will serve from July 1, 2012, to the time their successors are elected and installed into office.

The grand knight, deputy grand knight and trustees—subject to the rules of the diocesan bishop—select a priest to serve as the council’s chaplain. The grand knight annually appoints the council’s lecturer. The council’s financial secretary holds office at the supreme knight’s will for a three-year term. A member may not be installed as an officer unless his due payments are paid to the previous quarter. Failure to keep his dues paid also makes him ineligible to continue in office.

After elections, it is the financial secretary’s duty to file a Report of Officers for the Term (#185) to the Supreme Council office, with copies to the state deputy, district deputy and council files. The report form, due between May 1 and July 1, is found at kofc.org/forms, through the Member Management section of the website, and in the Council Report Forms Booklet (#1436). It should be completed and mailed immediately after council elections to ensure that the new officers begin receiving publications and other mailings from the Supreme Council office that will assist them in doing their jobs.

One of the new grand knight’s first duties should be to appoint the chairmen and directors for the areas of membership, service programs, culture of life, insurance promotion, and other activities. It’s also up to the grand knight to report his appointments to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Services using the Service Program Personnel Report (#365). This report is located on the Order’s website and in the Council Report Forms Booklet. Completed copies of the report should also go to the state deputy, the district deputy and council files.

For the duties of council officers, refer to flyer #4241.
A new television commercial produced by the Order premiered on Presidents Day weekend to remind Americans how God and religion were foundational to this country’s best remembered presidents.

Released by the Knights of Columbus and airing on FOX News Channel and the History Channel, the minute-long spot highlighted quotes from Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Kennedy and Reagan — each focused on the foundational role that God and religion play in American rights and government.

“The idea that our rights come from God and that religion has a role to play in our nation’s public life is not partisan or sectarian, it is quintessentially American,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “This Presidents Day is an excellent opportunity to remind Americans that God is — and has always been — foundational to this country and to our system of ordered liberty.”

The commercial may be viewed at: www.youtube.com/knightsof-columbus.

— George Washington
(Farewell Address, Sept. 19, 1796)

Pope Benedict XVI named Supreme Chaplain Bishop William E. Lori, on March 20, as the 16th Archbishop of Baltimore. Bishop Lori’s installation will be May 16.

“The Knights of Columbus congratulates our Supreme Chaplain, Bishop William Lori on his appointment as Archbishop of Baltimore,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “His appointment to the Premiere See in the United States is a testament to his excellent spiritual, moral, intellectual and administrative leadership in the Diocese of Bridgeport and his leadership nationally as the Chairman of the USCCB’s Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty.”

Bishop Lori was named supreme chaplain of the Knights of Columbus in April 2005. He was installed as the Fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport on March 19, 2001.

“It is notable that his new archdiocese has a long tradition in the area of religious freedom. Baltimore’s first Archbishop, John Carroll, was a stalwart defender of religious liberty in the early United States and cousin of Charles Carroll—the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence,” the supreme knight continued. “In addition, Baltimore is a city that is very important in the history of the Knights of Columbus. In Baltimore, our founder, Venerable Servant of God Father Michael McGivney, studied for the priesthood and was ordained in that city’s cathedral by then-Archbishop James Gibbons in 1877.”

A native of Louisville, Ky., Bishop Lori obtained a bachelor’s degree from the Seminary of Saint Pius X in Erlanger, Ky. in 1973, and a master’s degree from Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., in 1977. In 1982, Bishop Lori received his doctorate in Sacred Theology (S.T.D.) from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Bishop Lori was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Washington by Cardinal William Baum on May 14, 1977, in the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, D.C. His first assignment was as associate pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Landover, Md., a position he held for five years. Thereafter, Bishop Lori held a number of official chancery positions in the archdiocese, including vicar general, moderator of the Curia, and secretary to Cardinal James Hickey.

In 1995, Bishop Lori was ordained to the episcopate as auxiliary bishop of Washington and titular bishop of Bulla, an ancient suffragan see in modern-day Tunisia.

Since 2001, Bishop Lori has been a member of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities and the Committee on Doctrine of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. In 2002, President George W. Bush invited Bishop Lori to join the President’s Committee on Mental Retardation.

In 2002, in recognition of his role as an emerging leader in the Church’s response to the sexual misconduct crisis, Bishop Lori was appointed to the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse. He was instrumental in drafting the landmark Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

As one of four U.S. bishops on a special Mixed Commission, Bishop Lori journeyed to the Vatican to revise the “Essential Norms” of the Charter, which has now become particular law for the Catholic Church in the United States to ensure that no one who works for the Catholic Church will ever pose a threat of any kind to any person, young or old.
When I joined the Knights of Columbus in 1974, I did so with two of my buddies. We joined a local council that had a nice building that served multiple parishes in the same town. It was going to be a place to go, meet people, and make new friends. That was pretty much the whole story.

In the ensuing decades, I’ve met thousands and thousands of members of the Order, most of them active members, because I’ve met them at conventions and activities that are usually conducted by and for men who have taken an interest in the Order and express that interest by becoming involved. Along the way, I’ve heard hundreds of stories about how and why membership was brought to their attention and what appealed to them about becoming a K of C member.

Many were like me … invited, no real reason to say no, and joined. Others had a father or grandfather bring them in — ‘invite’ would perhaps not fit here because the conversation usually went this way: “You’re 18, and you’re joining the Knights of Columbus.” Some wanted to play softball. A large percentage saw an opportunity to better serve their parish, and through the parish, the Church. Our community involvement and charitable outreach attracted many more.

My point is that men over the years have joined the Knights of Columbus for many, many different reasons. It is safe to say that most of us did not join the Order with the intention of becoming a leader in our council, district, or state/province. Yet here we are, on the mailing list for Knightline, helping to lead the Order to a successful 2012.

I recently thought back on all of these men, all of these years, and all of these conversations when I was told what was overheard at a K of C meeting: we don’t want guys who just join the Knights of Columbus to buy insurance.

Why not?

If a Catholic man wants to protect his family with the best products on the market today, and he sees that opportunity through membership in his local council, we would say no? If a man comes to us and says he would be happy to join, but he can’t make council meetings, do we say no? If a man says he wants to join to play second base on the championship softball team, do we say no? If a man says he wants to join just because his dad told him to, do we say no? Then why say no to the man who says, “I trust my agent, I love the protection I can buy, so where do I sign?”

Our insured members, just by the nature of the premiums they pay which support the work of the Order, make valuable contributions to our organization. We should never say no … we should always say welcome! Once a member, he just might be a future grand knight.