The Knights of Columbus set new all-time records for charitable donations and volunteer service hours in 2011, according to Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, who released the results of the Order's Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity in a presentation to state deputies on June 10.

The results of the survey indicate that total charitable contributions reached more than $158 million — exceeding the previous year’s total by approximately $3.4 million. Volunteer service hours to charitable causes grew to more than 70 million hours.

“When we talk about the power of one, the necessity of growing the Order, the importance of charity — this is the reality,” Supreme Knight Anderson said of the numbers.

At the grassroots level, Knights are involved in a large number of service projects that range from programs with well-known groups like Habitat for Humanity and Special Olympics to smaller-scale initiatives that have a large impact on the community, like building wheelchair ramps, organizing blood drives and collecting food for the needy. Among the largest contributions was $515,000 for the Order’s Coats for Kids initiative, and $1,593,000 from the Supreme Council and $5,950,073 from state and local units to support those studying for the priesthood and religious life.

“I don’t think there’s any other Catholic volunteer association that is making this kind of a difference day in and day out in our communities and our parishes than the Knights of Columbus,” Anderson added.

The supreme knight also extolled state deputies to continue building the Order by constantly recruiting new members. It is only through a dynamic and expanding membership that the Knights can continue to make such a definitive impact on society as the strong right arm of the Church.

“I hope one of your priorities is to have more brother Knights go forward on the journey of knighthood,” said the supreme knight. “If we make the Knights stronger, we make the Church stronger. If we make the Knights stronger, we make our communities and our countries stronger. That is our mission. And we are going to grow and accomplish that mission.”

Over the past 10 years, Knights have contributed $1.4 billion and 653 million volunteer hours to charity.
Revised Installation of Council Officers Ceremony

The Board of Directors of the Knights of Columbus has approved a revision to the Installation of Council Officers Ceremonial and new easy-to-read books are being distributed to every district deputy. The new ceremonial’s highlights include formal installation of the council chaplain by the district deputy, followed by the blessing of council officer jewels. The movements are much easier, and the charge given to each council officer has been revised to focus more on the duties of the officer. Every district deputy should make plans to install the officers in each of his councils as soon as possible.

This is a great time of the year not only to install the officers; it is also a great time to recognize the council’s achievements and milestones from the previous fraternal year. Recognize the Knight of the Year, Family of the Year, Top Recruiter, and the Honorary and Honorary Life members at the council’s event. Invite potential members to attend with their families in order to introduce them to others Knights’ families from the council. Also, ask the council chaplain to offer a special Mass in honor of the new and retiring officers for their commitment as leaders of the council.

Council Audit

The Semiannual Council Audit Report (#1295) for the period ending June 30 is due at the Supreme Council by Aug, 15. Make sure the trustees complete the audit immediately and send it to: Knights of Columbus, Council Accounts, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326. The report can be found at kofc.org/forms and in the Council Report Forms Booklet.

Star Councils

The Star Council Award is the highest award that a council can attain. Measuring excellence in membership recruitment, insurance promotion and program activity, it represents a true benchmark of what makes a Knights of Columbus council outstanding. The best way to make your council a Star Council is to have a plan and get started right away.

If you haven’t already done so, schedule a meeting with the key leaders in your council and make sure you include your district deputy and field agent to set-up your game plan for becoming a Star Council in 2012-13. Recruiting at least one member per month – and involving prospective members in council programs – would be excellent ways to start.

Set a goal of making your council a Star Council this year. Then make it happen!

K of C Soccer Challenge Offers Fun for All

The Soccer Challenge is a competition designed for players to demonstrate the most basic soccer skill — the penalty kick.

• Open to boys and girls aged 10-14.
• Council winners advance through progressive levels of competition – district, regional, state and international. District and regional levels are optional depending on your location — ask your district deputy for details.
• Schedule your council level competition to be completed prior to the district competition, which in most cases is around October 10th.
• Required materials are available free of charge from the Supreme Council. Visit www.kofc.org/forms to get the Soccer Challenge Kit (#SC-KIT) or call 203-752-4016. One kit is enough for 75 young people.
• Use the Soccer Challenge as a membership opportunity- the fathers of participants may be eligible to join.
• To see a short video of Bishop John Barres of Allentown, Pa. discussing the virtues of the Soccer Challenge and Free Throw Championship, visit www.kofc.org/soccer.

Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest

The Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest has been empowering young people to spread the word about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse since 1997. An 11x17 poster can be entered in one of two categories: “Drug Awareness and Abuse” or “Alcohol Awareness and Abuse.” Boys and girls ages 8-14 are eligible to enter, and the contest can be run in any public, parochial or private school. You can also advertise at your parish, CYO, or anywhere else that young people congregate. This easy-to-conduct program involves presenting and promoting the contest, collecting the completed posters, determining a winner in each category/age group, and forwarding the winning entries to the next level of the contest. For a rewarding program that anyone can enjoy, look no further than the Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest. For more information visit www.kofc.org/substanceabuse or call 203-752-4703.

World Day of Prayer for Peace

This Sept. 11 marks the 11th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States. As the Knights of Columbus observe the World Day of Prayer for Peace on that anniversary, we recall the tragic events of that day and honor the thousands who lost their lives. We also pray for peace among and within nations, especially in those places where war, violence or turmoil persist. We pray that religion will be a means of peace and accord and not a pretense for violence and division.

At its annual meeting in 2004, the Supreme Council passed a resolution that Sept. 11 be observed each year as a World Day of Prayer for Peace. Thus, all Knights of Columbus leaders are urged to begin planning for this event now and hold an appropriate prayer service in a church, or in a public place such as a war memorial, a municipal park or on the grounds of the town or city hall. To assist your council in its participation in this event, the Supreme Council offers a Day of Prayer poster (#9483) and prayer card (#9484). The prayer card includes a prayer taken from the remarks of Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to the site in New York where the Twin Towers once stood.

Today, more than ever, our world is in need of prayers for peace. The Knights of Columbus World Day of Prayer for Peace provides an opportunity for Knights throughout the Order to participate in a powerful international offering of prayer for peace.

For more information please visit kofc.org/prayerforpeace.
For 37th Consecutive year, A.M. Best Reaffirms top A++ Rating for Knights of Columbus
No North American insurer more highly rated

For the 37th consecutive year, A.M. Best Company has given the Knights of Columbus its highest financial strength rating, A++ (Superior). A.M. Best is a worldwide rating and information agency, which conducts in-depth analyses and issues reports about the fiscal stability of insurance companies.

In its 2012 reaffirmation, A.M. Best noted the Knights of Columbus’ “strong fraternal and insurance presence within the Catholic communities in the United States and Canada, its superior risk-adjusted capitalization as measured by Best’s Capital Adequacy Ratio and the Order’s consistently positive statutory operating results.”

The report also observed that “the Order has a strong affinity with its large membership base through its charitable works and competitive portfolio of life insurance and annuity products.”

“Earning A.M. Best’s top rating again this year highlights the importance and wisdom of our sustainable business and investment models,” Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson said.

“Despite the recent economic downturn, the Knights of Columbus has grown stronger relative to our industry as people seek the safety and quality that Knights of Columbus products offer and are known for.” He added: “The fact that we have earned this top rating for each of the past 37 years is a testament to our commitment to our mission of protecting the well-being of Catholic families, and viewing our members as part of our family.”

In just over a decade, under Supreme Knight Anderson’s leadership, the Knights of Columbus insurance in force has doubled to more than $85 billion, with more than $18.5 billion in assets under management.

Allowing the Word of God to Shape Us
Supreme Chaplain addresses state deputies

Celebrating his first Mass in St. Mary’s Church in New Haven since being installed as the head of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori urged Knights of Columbus state deputies to allow the Word of God to shape their hearts and minds so they may become exemplary leaders for the faith and for the Order.

When reading the Bible or listening to the Scripture readings at Mass, Archbishop Lori said, “We should remind ourselves that it is truly the inspired Word of God and, therefore, we should have only one goal: to find Christ and to hear his voice, to allow his heart to speak to our heart. … The Scriptures are, in written form, God’s one word, his only Son, through whom he created us and through whom he redeemed us.”

He added that the Word of God should “shape how we think, what we believe, how we worship, what decisions we make and, indeed, how we participate in the mission of the Knights of Columbus.”

At the end of Mass, before blessing the ceremonial jewels of office for the newly elected state deputies, Archbishop Lori prayed that the Order’s leaders would “confirm and strengthen” their brother Knights and their families in the faith, in keeping with God’s word. The newly elected state deputies then came forward with their wives for Supreme Knight Carl Anderson to confer the ceremonial jewels.

In a formal address later to the state deputies, Archbishop Lori, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty, spoke about the upcoming Fortnight for Freedom, observed from June 21 to July 4, and other religious liberty topics.

State Deputy Meeting from Page 1

State deputies informally discuss the charitable and membership initiatives of their jurisdictions prior to the opening Mass.

Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore was the principal celebrant of Friday’s Mass.

About the fraternal-insurance partnership and the need for agents and fraternal leaders to work together toward the Order’s growth and well-being. In addition, Supreme Advocate John Marrella provided a briefing on legal issues to the state deputies.

Along with the business aspects of the meeting, the attendees came together several times during the weekend for the celebration of Mass.

In his homily for the opening Mass, Father Gregory Gresko said that the attributes of a Christian leader should serve as a model for Knights of Columbus state deputies. Relating his message to the day’s Gospel reading, in which Jesus says that his followers must love God with their whole hearts and their neighbor as themselves, Father Gresko said that “the calling” of a state deputy “is to be first among brothers in serving others, giving a perfect, complete gift of self to God through service to neighbor in the Order.”

Father Gresko, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., is chaplain of the Blessed John Paul II Shrine, which is administered by the Knights of Columbus in the nation’s capital. He was principal celebrant of the Thursday morning Mass, held in the grand ballroom of the Omni Hotel in New Haven, which was concelebrated by Father Joseph Allen, pastor of St. Mary’s parish, and Father John Grace, director of chaplain programs and development for the Knights of Columbus. The Mass was attended by the Order’s state deputies and their wives.
Oregon Council Garden Keeps Food Bank Stocked

Thanks to Tillamook (Ore.) Council 2171’s hard work, green thumbs and determination to help feed the poor of their community, two local food banks were able to provide fresh produce throughout the summer to those in need.

The project began when council member Don Armstrong, who maintained a 40’x100’ garden plot next to his house, approached his brother Knights with the idea that they begin a council garden. The council saw an opportunity for service and got right to work – beginning by leveling, plowing and fertilizing the field, then planting 100 pounds of seed potatoes, followed by carrots, cabbages, corn and squash later in the season.

“For the first harvest, we took 803 pounds to the Salvation Army – which had no refrigerated storage, so (they) couldn’t take in much fresh produce – and over 6,000 (pounds) to the Oregon Food Bank,” said Grand Knight Paul Wostel.

For the rest of the season, the food bank took whatever was available from the Knights. Describing how the produce would be depleted within a week of the council’s donations, Wostel remarked, “It went out as quick as it came in.” By the end of the season, the council had grown and collected 14,280 pounds of food.

The community’s response was immediate – and resounding. “This is wonderful,” Wostel said. “People were coming up and thanking us for what we were doing all over the place.”

The planning and planting for this summer’s season began in May.

HAS YOUR COUNCIL CONDUCTED AN OUTSTANDING PROJECT LIKE THIS?

If so, we’d like to hear about it. Please send information on your project (including the when, where, what, who, why and how of the activity) and photos to knightline@kofc.org. If you have any questions about sending in photos, call us at 203-752-4264.

In addition, if you think your council has an event or program that is an outstanding example of one of the six “Surge … with Service” categories – Church, Family, Culture of Life, Youth, Community or Council – let us know. We would like to produce a listing of upcoming events that we can pursue for possible promotion with local media and/or for use as a feature article in one of our publications. Please send a brief description of your upcoming event (one or two sentences about the project), with the date, location and contact information to knightline@kofc.org or call 203-752-4264.

Honor Our Founder During Family Week

The desire to help Catholic men and their families played an important role in Venerable Servant of God Father Michael McGivney’s decision to establish the Order in 1882. This desire to help has stayed with the Order throughout our existence. During Knights of Columbus Family Week, Aug. 12-19, sponsor Father McGivney related activities. Here are some programs to consider:

• Start off Knights of Columbus Family Week celebrations by bringing new members into the Order through First Degree exemplifications held on the anniversary of Father McGivney’s birth on Aug. 12.
• Hold a memorial Mass on Aug. 14 to mark the anniversary of Father McGivney’s death. A prayer dedicated to the cause for the canonization of Father McGivney would add a special touch to these services.
• Distribute Father McGivney prayer cards (#2617) available in English, French or Spanish from the Supreme Council Supply Department at no cost. Copies of The Life and Legacy of Father McGivney booklet (#2045) are also available in limited quantities.
• Show the 16-minute production The Life and Legacy of Father McGivney available on DVD or for download at kofc.org/films. Use this presentation, in English, French or Spanish, at receptions or open houses following memorial Masses or exemplifications. This DVD is available for $3 for shipping and handling from the Department of Fraternal Services.

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.

For more on Family Week visit kofc.org/familyweek.

Father Michael J. McGivney, circa 1882.
Looking to the Future in Haiti

The success of the “Healing Haiti’s Children” program leads to a new phase of long-term sustainability

Over the past two years, the Knights of Columbus’ “Healing Haiti’s Children” program, in conjunction with Project Medishare, has been an overwhelming success. Through the program the Order has committed to providing each child who lost a limb in the country’s devastating 2010 earthquake with a series of prosthetic devices over the next two years, refitting the devices as each child grows.

Patients travel from all over southern Haiti to the Emilio Moure Clinic for Hope, where they receive treatment that enables them to care for their families, pursue their education and return to work. Over 800 prosthetic and orthotic patients and thousands of rehabilitation patients have been treated with the highest possible standard of care.

According to Dr. Robert Gailey, director of rehabilitation services for Project Medishare, the program is now ready to move onto its next phase – establishing a program of education and training for local staff so that today’s promise becomes a future reality.

“We feel the Haitian people are now ready for a restructured strategy focused on sustainability,” Dr. Gailey explained. The program’s extension will allow the Knights of Columbus and Project Medishare to continue their joint mission in Haiti by creating a lasting program for the Haitian technicians and the people they serve, he added.

“The Knights of Columbus is proud to be able to continue our ‘Healing Haiti’s Children’ program by supporting the transition to a thriving and enduring program that will continue to serve the Haitian people,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson.

The next phase will be a transitional program of education, practical training and long-term employment for the Haitian staff who have been involved from the start and who hope to continue providing the highest level of rehabilitative and prosthetic care.

Through the training program and amputee soccer program, the Knights of Columbus has become a champion of Haitians with disabilities by offering a tangible example that with hope come possibilities beyond the greatest expectations. The goal of the next phase, Dr. Gailey said, is to ensure that all the positive experiences over the past two years do not fade into distant memories, but live on through the Haitian people who can be empowered to care for themselves and their fellow brothers and sisters.

Four Haitian technicians are now enrolled in formal certificate training programs to become rehabilitation technicians and prosthetic technicians. Over the next year, according to Gailey, they will receive the necessary training to adequately treat patients and supervise other technicians. In addition, the program currently fabricates its own prosthetic feet, knees, liners and sleeves. Medishare is looking to attract manufacturers to utilize the existing labor force to produce the prosthetics.

“Since the earthquake, the people of Haiti have experienced the benefits of proper rehabilitation and are now seeking more services,” Dr. Gailey noted. “Haitian people have come to realize the benefits of quality prosthetic care and that the use of a prosthesis not only provides the ability to walk but the opportunity to seek or maintain employment, provide for family and be a productive member of society.”

“On behalf of the Haitian people and Project Medishare, I would like to thank you and all the Knights of Columbus for your continued generosity and support,” Dr. Gailey continued. “On a personal note, I have come to learn that the Knights of Columbus is not a large anonymous organization but rather a brotherhood of men, each doing their best to make the world a better place.”

Celebrating Patriotism and the Crown

In celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall made a four-day visit to Canada. The royal couple’s first stop was New Brunswick. On the day after their arrival, the royal couple visited the Canadian Forces Base (CFB) of Gagetown, where Prince Charles trained as a helicopter pilot with the Royal Navy in the 1970’s. New Brunswick State Deputy Gérard Arsenault and his wife, Dorothy, were among the selected guests taking part in the official welcoming ceremony of the royal couple on Canadian soil.

During his speech at CFB Gagetown, Prince Charles extolled the virtues of community service. While attending the ceremony, State Deputy Arsenault had the opportunity to meet with Graydon Nicholas, lieutenant governor of New Brunswick and a member of Bishop Dollard Council 1942 in Fredericton.

While attending the reception that followed the welcoming ceremony, State Deputy Arsenault and his wife had the opportunity to briefly speak with Prince Charles. The state deputy mentioned that they represented the Knights of Columbus, and also stressed the international nature of the Order (especially its work in Canada), and the charitable activities undertaken by its 1.8 million members.

“Personally, I feel privileged to be part of this wonderful day,” said State Deputy Arsenault. “One of our four principles is patriotism. And we are honored to acknowledge the contribution of the British Crown in the history of our country. This is an excellent demonstration of our patriotism.”

Three-year-old Anaika Pierre takes her first steps on two legs since the 2010 earthquake, after being fitted with a prosthetic leg at the K of C-funded facility in Port-au-Prince. She is assisted by prosthetist Adam Finniston.
Knights of Columbus Joins Legal Defense of 10th Mountain Division War Memorial

Montana memorial on Forest Service land includes statue of Jesus

For more than 50 years, the war memorial has commemorated the valor and sacrifice of the U.S. Army’s Mountain Division. The Knights of Columbus — represented by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty — asked to intervene in a pending lawsuit to defend the memorial’s right to exist on public land in Montana. In mid-June a U.S. District Judge in Missoula, Mont., ruled that the Knights of Columbus “has a protectable interest in the lawsuit since it holds a special use permit for the statue,” and can intervene in the case, as reported by the Courthouse News Service.

The war memorial near Whitefish, Mont., includes a large statue of Jesus. It was erected by Montana members of the Knights of Columbus who were asked by veterans of the 10th Mountain Division to create a memorial reminiscent of hilltop shrines they encountered in Europe while fighting in World War II. The memorial has been maintained by local Knights of Columbus in Whitefish since it was erected in 1954.

The Knights of Columbus asked the U.S. District Court in Missoula, Mont., to allow it to intervene as a defendant in the case Freedom from Religion Foundation vs. Weber (2012), in order to protect its First Amendment rights — and those of its members in Montana — as it seeks to continue honoring the memory of the soldiers who gave their lives for our country.

“The idea that a war memorial containing a religious symbol on a remote piece of public land somehow establishes religion in this country is at odds with the historical record, the vision of our Founding Fathers enshrined in the First Amendment and the extensive jurisprudence in this area,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “It is sad that some in America have become so intolerant of religion that they are willing to remove longstanding memorials to America’s war heroes to enforce their narrow view on the rest of us.”

Nearly 60 years ago, Kalispell Council 1328 of the Knights of Columbus leased the 25-foot by 25-foot plot of land on Big Mountain, which lies within a commercial ski resort, from the U.S. Forest Service, to erect a memorial honoring fallen soldiers from World War II.

The permit had been renewed every 10 years without incident until 2010, when the Freedom from Religion Foundation, a Wisconsin-based organization, threatened the Forest Service, claiming the memorial violated the U.S. Constitution. The Forest Service initially denied the permit, but then renewed it after nationwide media attention and a public outcry. In February 2012, the Freedom from Religion Foundation filed suit to have the memorial permanently removed.

A Knights of Columbus-Marist national poll conducted in 2010 found that 76 percent of Americans believe the First Amendment should protect the free exercise of religion, not keep government land free of religious symbolism. Similarly, a 2009 Rasmussen poll indicated 76 percent of Americans favor the display of religious symbols on public property.

Train an All-Star Recruiting Team

To be successful, your council’s recruitment efforts must be planned and conducted effectively. You need to put together a winning team. You need to write a game plan. When considering members to invite to join your recruiting team, look for the following attributes:

- Enthusiasm about the Order and its mission;
- Good communication and social skills (Tip: Be sure to select your council’s best spokesmen to deliver pulpit announcements); and
- A strong reputation of service to the parish.

Your recruiters reflect on the entire council, and they must offer a good public image. A good recruiter offers invaluable service to the council and the recruit. Be sure to choose men you can trust to be excellent ambassadors for the council.

The recruiting team must have a well-organized and detail-oriented game plan. Effective game plans have the following elements:

- A prospect list, identifying men in the parish who would be good candidates for membership (Tip: Look for leaders who are active in other parish ministries, like lectors and parish council members);
- A clearly defined schedule for pulpit announcements, recruitment drives, open houses, service projects, and First Degree exemplifications;
- And clearly defined responsibilities, delegated to different members of the team. A great plan won’t do any good if it’s not implemented effectively.
- Work with your pastor to make sure that your recruitment plan supports his goals for ministry. (Tip: remind your pastor that he is your council’s best recruiter!)
- Partner with your field agent to assist the recruiting team, and to offer training, tips and techniques. (Tip: He has been trained to recruit, take advantage of his expertise)
- Work with the pastor, parish secretary, and parish council to ensure that the council’s recruitment events are on the parish calendar, that the parish hall is reserved for First Degree exemplifications, etc.
- Get the entire council involved, especially the other council officers. Recruitment should be fun! It’s a great way to invite more men to join in the work of the Order. Don’t be tempted to outsource recruitment, just because your council has a great team! Each member doing his part helps make the council successful. Recruitment is a year-round activity, and each council activity is an opportunity to invite men to membership in the Knights of Columbus.
All Knights of Columbus officers are called to lead by example in their council, in their parish and in their community. Each council officer must participate in helping to grow his council through recruiting new members and retaining existing ones so that it is sustainable and is able to extend its charitable reach into the parish and community. Grand knights, deputy grand knights and chancellors in particular along with the membership and program directors need to look at the needs in their particular parish and community and focus the council’s efforts toward them. Remember that the vast array of programs and activities that a council offers makes it one of the most important Catholic organizations in both its parish and its community.

To support growth of the Order and to enhance its ability to perform charitable work, this fraternal year’s membership campaign will celebrate the vision of our founder, the Venerable Servant of God Father Michael J. McGivney.

Under this initiative, every Knight that recruits a new member during the fraternal year will receive a specially minted, two-inch bronze medallion with the image of Father McGivney on the front and St. Mary’s Church, the birthplace of the Order, on the back. Our founder’s life and example will serve as an integral recruiting theme in other ways this year, including:

Father McGivney’s 160th Birthday Celebration

Every grand knight and district deputy, along with the Membership, Program, Council and Church activities directors should begin planning now for a special event on Sunday, August 12, the 160th anniversary of Father McGivney’s birth. Perhaps your celebration could include a Mass in honor of Father McGivney, followed by a family picnic. Invite the whole parish to your celebration as a way to introduce your community to Father McGivney’s spirit of charity and service, and how it lives on in your council today.

First Quarter Recruiting Challenge – Officers Leading the Way

The first quarter challenge is the “Officers Recruiting Challenge!” All officers, from the state deputy to the council outside guard, need to set a good example as leaders and recruit at least one new member. This year, each recruiting council officer will receive a medallion of Venerable Michael McGivney and 500 V.I.P. Club (Very Important Proposer Club) Points. When a council inducts 13 new members (one per council officer), the council will be awarded a bonus of 26,000 V.I.P. Club Points (13 x 500 Regular V.I.P. Club Points plus 1,500 Council V.I.P. Club Bonus Points). These points can be redeemed for Knights of Columbus merchandise available in the Gift Catalog. Rewarding recruiters is a great way to say thank you, and the example of officers working together can inspire a council to grow and make an even bigger impact in their parish and community.

Power of One – “One Member per Council per Month” Presentation

During his address to the meeting of state deputies (see page 1), Supreme Knight Carl Anderson spoke about the “Power of One.” An example of this is Father McGivney, one motivated and dedicated leader who made an incredible impact on his community and changed the world.

A new recruiting video from the Order reminds us that “One Member, per Council, per Month” is more than a slogan—it is a tangible means to put into practice effective leadership that believes in the “power of one.”

The video, which was shown to the state deputies, stresses how new membership strengthens councils, allows them to help form Catholic lay leaders, and builds unity. Each council should plan on showing the video at a council meeting and an officer meeting. The production, available in English, French and Spanish, can be downloaded at: kofc.org/recruit1

Every council should plan on showing the production at a council meeting and an officer meeting. Go to the Web site and download the video and show as often as possible.

Growth is about the health and welfare of every council. While some losses are inevitable, others can be prevented. All members and especially new members must be made to feel welcome, given mentoring, and become part of a two-way member-council connection. Activity connects a member to his council and a warm and welcoming council connects itself to its members. Council activity must be a 12-month program and it is a key component of “Membership 365.” While a council’s activities may change during the summer months, each council needs to continue to meet and involve members and families in programs. This is also a good time to say thank you to volunteers and recruiters, to enjoy social activities, and to sponsor fundraiser sports activities like a Knights of Columbus Night at the ball park.
Long-Term Care Plan Offers Peace of Mind

Since its addition to the Order’s product portfolio in 2000, long-term care insurance has provided the Knights of Columbus with an excellent opportunity to further serve members and their families. And, for our long-term care clients in the United States, a Knights of Columbus Care policy brings added value. That added value is in the form of a service called “Provider Pathway,” a program offering access to a network of long-term care providers at discounted rates. The network includes discounts on products, such as hearing aids, diabetic supplies, personal emergency response systems, and durable medical equipment, as well as skilled nursing facilities, assisted living, and adult day care. This program is not available in Canada as of yet due to the limited number of providers.

Eligibility for participation in this program is open to Knights of Columbus long-term care insurance policyholders, their spouses, dependent children, parents and parents-in-law. All providers are fully credentialed and meet state licensing requirements.

If you haven’t yet spoken with your professional Knights of Columbus agent about long-term care insurance, you owe it to yourself to do so. There are a few decisions to make in choosing a “plan” — a home health care plan or one that covers facility only, benefit amounts and durations, and the length of the “waiting period” before benefits kick-in. Having a professionally trained agent — and a brother Knight you can trust — to help guide you through the process is yet another valuable benefit that comes with your membership. Take advantage of it.

To locate your Knights of Columbus agent, visit “Find an Agent” at www.Kofc.org. For a copy of the “Provider Pathway” brochure explaining the program, e-mail me at thomas.smith@kofc.org — I’ll be happy to send one along.