



KNIGHTLINE

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS *In Service to One. In Service to All.*

NEWS FOR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LEADERS ♦ 1 COLUMBUS PLAZA, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-3326, USA

Knights of Columbus Mobilize for Oklahoma Tornado Relief Efforts

Following a devastating tornado in suburban Oklahoma City, Okla., the Knights of Columbus has initiated local disaster response efforts to help those affected.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of life and the damage caused by the tornadoes in Oklahoma," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. "We will work with our state and local councils to help the people of Oklahoma recover from this disaster, and we ask all members of the Knights of Columbus to keep those affected in their prayers."

The Knights of Columbus Oklahoma State Council has begun organizing relief efforts in and around Moore, Okla., to assist those displaced or otherwise negatively impacted by the storm. In addition, the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council sent an initial donation of \$10,000 in support of the Oklahoma Knights' response.



Two girls stand in rubble after a tornado struck Moore, Okla., May 20. The tornado touched down outside Oklahoma City leaving a 20-mile path of death and destruction. (CNS photo/Gene Blevins, Reuters)

As it did following Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, and the explosion in West, Texas, K of C is accepting online donations to assist relief and recovery through Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc., at kofc.org/relief.

Donations may also be mailed to:

Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.
Oklahoma Fund
P.O. Box 1966
New Haven, CT 06509-1966

One hundred percent of all donations collected by Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc. will be sent to those affected by the disaster.

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc. is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a charitable organization under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Grand Knight Checklist — June

Make plans for the transition of your council officers/chairmen on July 1. Plan for your council's participation in Knights of Columbus Family Week (Aug. 10-18) Begin preparing data for these reports, due over the next several months:

- Columbian Award Application (#SP-7) 6/30
- Annual Report - Knights of Columbus Round Table (#2630) 6/30
- RSVP Refund/Plaque Application (#2863) 6/30
- Food for Families Reimbursement Program Refund/Plaque Application (#10057) 6/30
- Report of Officers Chosen (#185) 7/1
- Service Program Personnel Report (#365) 8/1
- Semiannual Council Audit Report (#1295) 8/15

Canadians March for Life

On a warm, summer-like day, tens of thousands of Canadians gathered in the capital city of Ottawa for the 16th annual National March for Life on May 9



Supreme Knight Carl Anderson addressed tens of thousands of Canadians gathered in Ottawa on May 9 for the 16th annual National March for Life.

Assembling together on the lawn located just in front of their country's parliament, citizens from across all of

Canada's provinces kicked off the march with a rally that featured several speakers who explained the importance of both this event and the pro-life movement in the nation's life.

Among those addressing the crowds was Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, representing the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus, along with Deputy Supreme Knight Dennis Savoie.

Anderson thanked the participants for their presence and noted the following: "Canada is a country great in natural resources. But Canada's greatest resource is its children. Today we are proud of our countries

Important Forms Due on June 30

Three important year-end forms are due at the Supreme Council office by June 30. First is the Columbian Award Application (No. SP-7), which is a requirement for councils to qualify for the Star Council Award. Report at least four programs in each of the six Service Program categories (Church, community, council, Culture of Life, family and youth activities) to qualify. Or, as an alternative in any category, report participation in one of the Order's featured programs (Church Activities — RSVP; Community Activities — Habitat for Humanity or Global Wheelchair Mission; Council Activities — Special Olympics; Culture of Life Activities — March for Life or Ultrasound Initiative; Family Activities — Food for Families; Youth Activities — Coats for Kids). Also, remember that sponsorship of a Columbian Squires Circle in good standing fulfills all four Youth Activity requirements.

Second is the RSVP Refund and Plaque Application (#2863), on which councils should outline the support provided to individual seminarians during the fraternal year. And third is the Food for Families Reimbursement Program Refund and Plaque Application (#10057), on which councils should outline their support of food pantries, food banks and soup kitchens.

All forms can be accessed at kofc.org/forms.

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 at the conclusion of the fraternal year 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.

New Member Credit

To help foster membership growth in our Order during the second half of the 2012-13 Fraternal Year, each council will receive a \$9.00 credit for each new member it recruits. The council will also receive a \$9.00 credit for each of its reinstatements or reactivations of members suspended prior to January 1, 2013. There is no cap on the amount a council can receive through this program. This program is effective until June 30, 2013. The credit for each council will be calculated and applied to the July 1, 2013, council bill. In addition to this special program for 2013, effective immediately, each new council will have its first council assessments waived for per capita, Catholic Advertising and the Culture of Life Fund.

New Council Development Pilot Program

The Board of Directors voted at its April 5-7, 2013, meeting in Washington, D.C., to initiate a pilot program

for New Council Development in the **United States and Canada**, effective for the period April 6, 2013, through June 30, 2015. Under the pilot program, the minimum number of members required to start a new council is reduced from 30 members to 20 members. The members of the new council may be a mix of new members and transfers, as currently permitted by Section 231 of the Laws of the Order. This initiative is being piloted to provide greater opportunities to extend a Knights of Columbus presence to parishes that do not have a council and to offer membership in the Order to a greater number of eligible Catholic men. The results of the pilot New Council Development initiative will enable the Board of Directors to determine whether to recommend that the Supreme Council amend Section 99 of the Laws of the Order so that the 20-member requirement for new councils would become permanent. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Supreme Secretary's Office or the Department of Fraternal Services. Due to the fact that June 30, 2013, is a Sunday, all documents must be received at the Supreme Council office prior to the close of business on Friday, June 28, 2013. Scanned copies of form 100's can be emailed to membershiprecords@kofc.org. Please note that hard copies of any previously scanned form 100's should not be sent into the Supreme Council, as duplication can occur.

Charity and Membership Initiative Held in Honor of Pope Francis

In taking his name from St. Francis of Assisi, "the man of poverty," and identifying himself so closely with the poor statements, the Holy Father has shown himself to be dedicated to charity. Since the Order's guiding principle is charity, there is no better way to express the Knights of Columbus' solidarity with Pope Francis than to build each council in its charitable outreach by serving those in need.

To meet this goal, a Membership and Program Special Incentive in Honor of Pope Francis will be held for the remainder of the 2012-13 fraternal year. During the final three months of the fraternal year, each time a council takes part in a First Degree exemplification that brings at least one member into that council, it is entered into a competition for one of two all-expense-paid trips to Italy — including tours of Rome and Assisi — in early October 2013 for the grand knight and membership director and their wives. In addition, each time a council conducts a hands-on service program to help those in need, it has the opportunity to enter into the second part of the incentive for one of two

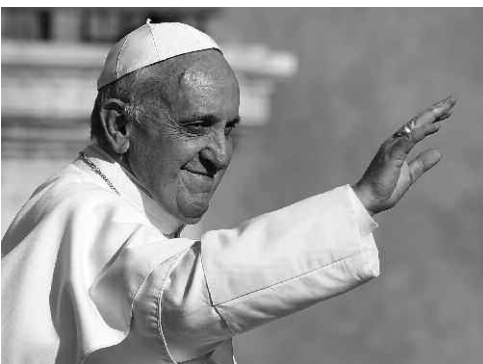


photo credit: (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

all-expense-paid October trips to Italy for the grand knight and program director and their wives. To enter an activity, a council should use the form included in the recent mailing to all grand knights of record. These forms can also be downloaded from kofc.org/popefrancis. There is no limit on the number of times a council can enter this incentive. Winners for the two membership spots and the two program spots will be selected after July 1, 2013.

The goal of this program is for each council to raise community awareness about a specific community need and to then sponsor a hands-on activity of assistance, in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi and the new pope. More members mean a greater potential for charitable outreach. For more information, visit kofc.org/popefrancis.

Every council is urged to promote and implement the Membership and Program Special Incentive in Honor of Pope Francis and truly make a difference for the good of the parish and community.

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.

Active Councils are Successful Councils

It's a very simple formula: the more active your council is with charitable initiatives in the parish and community, the more people will see and appreciate the good works the Order performs and the easier it will be to recruit qualified Catholic men into your council. It's a circular process that benefits the new member, council, parish and community. Below you'll find some examples of the great programs Knights of Columbus are conducting throughout the Order.

Has Your Council Conducted an Outstanding Project Like These?

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 describing it, the date, location and contact information) to knightline@kofc.org or call 203-752-4264.

Here are some of the activities being held around the Order by councils like yours:

For the past six years, Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral Council 12708 of Phoenix have hosted annual Religious Education dinners held over the course of two evenings. The first night is held for English-speaking students and the second, for Spanish-speaking students. The proceeds of the evenings go to the Heifer Project, which provides cattle and training to people in an effort to end



hunger. During the two nights, over 15 Knights helped feed over 300 students and family members and raised over \$900.

This year, Council 12708 also hosted Phoenix's annual Priest Appreciation Dinner, which has been held for over 20 years in the Diocese of Phoenix and Tucson within the Arizona jurisdiction. This year, over 97 priests and 191 Knights, representing nearly 30 councils, attended. During the dinner, the Knights honored five priests who have had over 50 years



of ordained life. The highlight of the dinner was a raffle that raised over \$800, the proceeds of which went to the council's vocations fund. Additionally,

State Deputy Bryant Sayers presented a check for \$3,000 for the Diocese's vocations program.

This year, St. Thomas More Council 11134 of Spokane, Wash., participated in 40 Cans for Lent with resounding success. The plastic containers used to collect non-perishable food items were purchased by both the council and Assembly 3283. Over \$1,100 in canned goods were and donated to St. Vincent de Paul Ministries in Spokane, and plans are already being made to participate in next year's campaign.

In Markham, Ontario, Jesus the King Arab Christian Council 15045 has been very diligent in their fundraising and community efforts. February featured a "Valentine Knight" dinner and raffle, which earned \$4,000 for various charitable initiatives; community members were invited to join in on council fun with a BINGO night and a local high school basketball free-throw; and over 1,000 tickets have been sold for the "Win a Car for a TOONIE" raffle, which, with the Knights' help, has earned millions of dollars for the Arthritis Society and local parish support and projects over previous years.

MARCH FOR LIFE, FROM PAGE 1

and what we have done to promote human rights. Only a culture of life can build a true culture of human rights."

"Death can never be a solution," he continued, "whether it is abortion, euthanasia or doctor-assisted suicide. No problem is so great that it requires the death of our children."

Referring to the hostile ideological environment in which pro-life activists must often operate, Supreme Knight Anderson added, "Today, the news media cannot ignore you. And one day soon, the government will not be able to ignore you."

Also present were members of Canada's Catholic hierarchy: Cardinal Thomas Collins of Toronto, Archbishops Gérald Cyprien Lacroix of Quebec City, and Christian Lépine of Montreal, Bishop Noël Simard of Valleyfield and Archbishop Terrence Prendergast of Ottawa. Several senators and members of Parliament also took time away from their parliamentary duties to stand in solidarity with the marchers.

The leadership of the Knights of Columbus in the province of Ontario were also in attendance, along with representatives of the Quebec and Manitoba state jurisdictions.

After the speeches, the upbeat crowd marched for about an hour in the streets located in the vicinity of Parliament, right in downtown Ottawa. Leading the marchers was a color guard of members of the 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus. Local members of Notre Dame Cathedral Council 13781 were also involved with organizing a luncheon for the dignitaries who took part in the march.

Prior to the main event, Masses were celebrated at the St. Patrick Basilica by Cardinal Collins, at the Gatineau Cathedral by Archbishop Lacroix and at the Notre Dame Basilica by Archbishop Lépine. In the evening, the Rose Dinner was also conducted, during which guests heard from a number of notable pro-life speakers. The Youth Banquet offered the opportunity for young people to spend an evening with engaging and motivating speakers.

Observers and journalists noted that one of the main features of this year's march was the presence of an ever-growing number of young people at the event. Young families were also in abundance, pushing strollers along the way. The theme of this year's march, which was organized by Campaign Life Coalition, was "End Female Gendercide."

Plan to Succeed in the Coming Fraternal Year

Council officers and Service Program chairmen should meet at the end of the fraternal year to take stock of last year's endeavors as a way to help the incoming officers and chairmen with the new fraternal year's efforts. This meeting should be a time to reflect on the council's membership recruitment and retention efforts as well as program activities to size up their strengths and weaknesses.

This review is a time for honest assessment, not finger pointing over projects that may not have gone exactly according to plan. When reviewing programs, ask these questions:

- How well executed were the membership recruitment and service programming plans designed at the start of the year?
- Were these plans realistic? Were they overly ambitious or, conversely, did they fail to tap into the council's full potential?
- Were goals achieved?
- Were families involved to a sufficient degree? If not, how can family involvement be expanded?
- Were the entire parish and community involved in these efforts?
- Were materials available from the Supreme Council office fully utilized?
- How can the lessons of this year be used to develop better plans for the upcoming fraternal year?

The program and membership directors should share their evaluations with their grand knight and incoming directors to ensure the lessons they learned through experience are passed along.

The council starts with a clean slate on July 1, the first day of the new fraternal year. Prior to that, officers and key personnel should begin planning recruitment, retention and service programming efforts using this year-end review as a starting point. This will lead to more opportunities for success during the coming fraternal year.

Knights of Columbus Family Week is August 10-18

In celebrating families, the Knights of Columbus honors its long history of putting the welfare and importance of the family first and foremost. Knights of Columbus Family Week is an opportunity to invite the rest of your community to celebrate the importance of families. Some ways councils can mark this week include:

- Sponsoring a weekend family retreat
- Planning an outdoor rosary or Mass before a family picnic
- Holding a renewal of marriage vows ceremony and giving participating couples the "A Covenant Renewed" certificate (No. 2745 – available in English, French and Spanish for 25 cents each).
- Holding a Memorial Mass for deceased members of the council family. This would be an especially fitting memorial since Aug. 14 is the anniversary of Father McGivney's death.
- Encouraging entire families in the community to volunteer at a council community service event.
- Sponsoring a family picnic featuring a cookout, sack race, egg toss, water-

balloon toss, three-legged race, obstacle course, face-painting and other similar activities.

- Hold a banquet to honor "Family of the Month" or "Family of the Year" recipients and present the recipients with Family of the Month certificates (# 1843) or Family of the Year certificates (# 1843A), both available in English, French and Spanish at a cost of 25 cents each.

For more ideas, visit kofc.org/familyweek



The Knights and CAC

Consider bringing a Catholic athlete to your next council meeting, parish event or a special activity for your diocese. The Knights of Columbus and Catholic Athletes for Christ (CAC) have partnered together to promote Catholicism and evangelization in sports in Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the Olympic games and at college and high school campuses across the country.

The Knights have a long history of promoting Catholicism in sports with Babe Ruth, Vince Lombardi and Floyd Patterson being among some of our more prominent athlete brothers. Today, we are working with CAC and the next generation of Catholic athletes to support the Church and evangelization.

CAC works with athletes at all levels of sports — professional, amateur and scholastic — to promote Blessed John Paul II's theology of sports and integrate its principles into our sports culture. Mike Piazza, Mike Sweeney, Jeff Suppan, Jack Del Rio, Eddie Gaven, Kellen Clemens, Pat McCaskey, Pat Shurmur, Joe Lombardi, Darrell Miller, Jack McKeon, Kerry Fraser and Dr. Bill Thierfelder are but a few of the over 300 Catholic athletes associated with CAC and its mission. In the past few

years, it has created high school and college chapters at select Catholic schools at the request of local bishops and school administration. Please consider inviting CAC founder Ray McKenna, or someone else from CAC, to visit your council or otherwise assist in promoting CAC in recreating a Catholic culture in sports.

For the past seven years, CAC has hosted a Mass and dinner at the NFL Combine in Indianapolis. This past year, the Knights partnered with CAC and the Indianapolis Colts in a very successful Coat for Kids event. The Knights have also sponsored the CAC annual baseball retreat and its spring training program, which brings priest chaplains to major league teams. Additionally, several local councils are working with CAC to operate Catholic programs or camps in the local sports environment. Please visit CAC's website (Catholicathletesforchrist.com) or its YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/catholicathletes) to learn more about the organization and many ways it is working together with the Knights to evangelize sports. You may contact CAC by phone at 703-239-3070 or by emailing Kevin O'Malley at Kevin@Catholicathletesforchrist.com.

Recruitment Resources



Suggested Recruitment Remarks (#10067): Finding potential new members for your council can be as simple as reaching out to the members of your parish. An announcement by your pastor or a fellow Knight at the end of each Mass on a given weekend, or once a month, is one of the best ways to encourage men to become Knights. This flyer includes an announcement that should be customized to reflect your council's activities as well as some suggestions on follow-up activities.

"24 Hours Can Change Your Life" flyer (#10099): This flyer demonstrates how, by giving only 24 hours a year to the Knights of Columbus, a man can make a difference in his community, serve his parish, grow in his faith and protect his family with Knights of Columbus Insurance.

"Why You Should Become a Knight" flyer (#10100): This flyer gives a quick overview of the Knights of Columbus, explaining the many volunteer and spiritual growth opportunities the organization offers, as well as the value of the Order's insurance program.

Visit kofc.org/membershipads to view Knights of Columbus commercials focusing on the Order's legacy and good works. They are a quick, exiting and imformative way to encourage prospective members to join.

Taking Membership Recruitment One Step at a Time

Membership recruitment can be daunting and overwhelming. Trying to do everything at once through an across-the-board all encompassing effort can lead to frustration and little success. But, if you think of gaining recruiting success one piece at a time, it becomes manageable.

Recruiting is like that — if you try to have recruiting success with every potential member you're probably not going to have much success. For success you need to focus on the areas that offer you the greatest potential for success.

Recruiting is more than just numbers and meeting quota — those are the by-products of successful recruitment, but they're not the reasons. In 2011, we as an Order donated 70 million hours of service and \$158 million in donations. Bringing new members into our service activities will help us help more people in need.

Membership in the Knights offers a man the opportunity to grow in his own spirituality through the faith-based programs our councils offer and association with other men of faith.

When a man becomes a Knight we're offering him access to a top-rated insurance program to help him protect his family's future.

The first step to recruiting is to put together a list of who you want to recruit. Do this in segments. Look at your jurisdiction/community and consider who you will most likely have the most success in recruiting.

Work with a pastor/priest who is open and friendly to the Order and has had good experiences with the Knights of Columbus. These priests will be your best spokesmen. Putting your efforts/resources into these areas that have a very reasonable chance for success — rather than spreading your resources over your entire area — will begin a cycle of success that can spread in the future to areas

SEE RECRUITMENTPAGE 6

Year of Faith Continues Through November 24, 2013

On October 11, 2012, the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Year of Faith began. This celebration ends on the Feast of Christ the King on Nov. 24, 2013.

Celebration of the Year of Faith is made to order for the Knights of Columbus. For that reason, councils are encouraged to incorporate the Council Action Plan for the Year of Faith into their schedule of activities. The action plan covers four major areas: Faith Professed, Faith Lived, Faith Celebrated and Faith Prayed.

The Council Action Plan for the Year of Faith includes a special incentive program. Any council completing at least one item in each of the areas cited above will receive a print of the Holy Family icon (suitable for display). It may be placed in the council chamber, presented to the council chaplain or given to any council member who has been instrumental in promoting the Year of Faith celebration.



Available celebration aids include the Year of Faith pamphlet (#10085), the Year of Faith Prayer Booklet (#10083), a Year of Faith Prayer Card (#10086) and the Year of Faith Report Form (#10084). The items are available in English, Spanish and French.

There is no charge for the Year of Faith pamphlet. The first 100 Year of Faith Prayer Cards (#10086) and Year of Faith Prayer Booklets (#10083) ordered by councils will be provided at no charge. Requests for additional prayer cards or prayer booklets should be for batches of 100. For these orders the Supreme Council will ask for \$3.00 for every 100 prayer cards or prayer booklets requested to help defray shipping costs. Council orders for Year of Faith materials should be sent to: Year of Faith, Department of Fraternal Services, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven CT 06510, e-mailed to fraternalservices@kofc.org, or faxed to 203-752-4108.

For more information contact Robert Ennis at 203-752-4616 or robert.ennis@kofc.org.

The Member Interest Survey

A council's potential to do good lies at the heart of the various skills and experience that each individual Knight can bring to the table. At those times when your council is uncertain of where to turn its charitable efforts, when there's a will but you're lacking the direction to find the way, evaluating your members' strengths and interests can be the key to success. Luckily, grand knights and financial secretaries have access to a useful tool for this purpose on the K of C website. Under the Member Management section of kofc.org (access of which is available to grand knights and financial secretaries), there is a page whereby the interests of each and every Knight of your council may be entered by checking off the appropriate boxes. In addition to the 46 predetermined options, additional boxes may be created to customize a final report that can meet your council's needs. Keep in mind that taking the initiative to fill out this form will not only help to vitalize the Order's principle of charity, but it can also strengthen unity and fraternity within your group. As Financial Secretary Charles Wackett of Council 7302 (Nova Scotia), whose parish sponsors a "Living Your Strengths" program, stated in regards to member research, "One of the issues in our Order is that some Knights may leave or become bored because they have been given nothing to do that interests them. On the other hand, many Knights may not want to suggest activities for fear that they may be saddled with a job that is too much for them. Allowing each Knight to engage in an area of his interest helps in member retention."

that will be harder to sell.

Here are some groups to consider:

- Newly married men (K of C insurance may be especially important to them as they begin their own family).
- New fathers (The birth of one's first child can often cause a man to look beyond himself and want to begin leaving a legacy of service that his children can learn from and build on. It's also the time to plan for the financial security of the family though K of C insurance products).
- "Empty-nesters" (With the kids out of the house — and the "after school tasks" and other activities associated with that gone — these men now have time they may wish to donate to your council's service programs.)

- Retirees (Now that the long work days are done, there's time to dedicate to fulfilling the desire to help others).
- Men who have just moved into the area (Being new to the community, these men and their families will be looking to build relations with their neighbors, parishioners and community members. Membership in the Order offers them an opportunity to meet like-minded men and their families and to become involved in the parish/community).

Also, ask pastors who are supportive of the Order for a list of parishioners who they think might be very open to joining the Knights.

Encourage your members to look to their own families (fathers, sons, brothers, uncles, etc.) for potential members.

Make Your Activities the Focus of Recruitment Efforts

Actions always speak louder than words. When a man sees the good works your council is doing, he'll naturally want to be a part of them.

Just as you need to approach membership recruitment a little at a time, you should take the same approach with conducting service programs. Rather than conducting a large number of programs, look at focusing your efforts on a handful of initiatives that you can be especially successful at.

Talk to your pastor and the members of your council to brainstorm what the needs of your parish and community are. Once you determine these needs, get a feel from your members on which ones they are interested in trying to tackle. Then determine what your resources are for doing this.

Keep in mind the Knights of Columbus offers a variety of service activities that jurisdictions and councils can adapt to their local needs and resources: Coats for Kids, Food for Families, Global Wheelchair Mission, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Ultrasound Initiative, Free Throw and/or Soccer Challenge, Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest, Veterans Support, to name just a few.

Once you determine what activities you want to conduct, get focused and get active.

Invite your prospects to help out at your service initiatives. Ask them to bring along their families. Make sure they have the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the activity and that they come out with a very positive experience. Include these nonmember volunteers in any type of follow-up to the volunteer event (a "thank you" dinner; a debriefing; any planning for the next activity).

After the prospect has helped out a couple of times, ask if he's interested in becoming a Knight (since he's already been active in what the council does, it should be an easy sell at this point). Remind him that along with the continued opportunity to make a difference in his parish and community, membership will give him access to the Order's top-rated insurance.

Always remember that attendance at council meetings is not the primary purpose of membership in the Knights. Meetings are only for planning the council's activities and are not an end unto themselves. Having a large amount of members participating in council activities with only a few attending meetings is always preferable to having a large number of members at a meetings.

The Fortnight Continues

*Amid growing threats to religious liberty,
Catholics are invited to join in prayer and reflection
about our first freedom*

by Most Rev. William E. Lori

Last year in Baltimore, after the opening Mass of the 2012 Fortnight for Freedom, I stood on the portico of the Basilica of the Assumption to greet members of the congregation as they exited the church. A young girl with her parents came up to me, handed me a little American flag and said, "That was fun! I hope we do this a lot!" Everyone laughed, and I went on greeting the many people who had attended Mass. Later on, though, I thought about the little girl's reaction. Although her reasons for enjoying that Mass were probably not the same as mine, I do know that Catholics need to gather yearly to pray for religious liberty — not only for my generation but also for that little girl's. That is why I was delighted when the U.S. bishops decided to organize the Fortnight for Freedom again this year — a 14-day period of prayer, reflection and action to promote a greater understanding of religious liberty in the two weeks leading up to Independence Day.

The Fortnight will officially begin with an opening Mass in Baltimore's Basilica of the Assumption on June 21 at 7 p.m. and end with a closing Mass on July 4 at noon at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. During this period, the Church celebrates the feast days of two saints who are champions of religious freedom: St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher. This year, dioceses across the United States will again be organizing Masses, prayer gatherings, study groups, rallies and many other activities in observance of the Fortnight.

REFLECTING ON FREEDOM

Why is it so important to continue the Fortnight for Freedom? Some of the reasons are short-term. For example, most religious organizations will be forced to comply with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' contraceptive mandate on Aug. 1 of this year. This will compel religious organizations, regardless of their teachings, to include coverage for abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization and contraception in their employee health care plans. So-called accommodations proposed by the administration to allay the religious freedom concerns of religious organizations have not improved the situation and may even make it worse.

Further, if potential Supreme Court rulings legally redefine marriage or otherwise contribute to the redefinition of marriage throughout the United States, they could cause serious religious freedom issues for adoption agencies run by the Church and other religious groups. Such rulings could also raise concerns for immigration and humanitarian services offered by the Catholic Church and others.

SEE FORTNIGHTPAGE 7

The Fortnight for Freedom is an important opportunity to highlight these and other immediate religious liberty issues in the United States. It offers a sobering moment for all of us to realize how religious freedom has eroded over time and to ask for God's help in protecting such a precious gift.

But the Fortnight is an occasion for even more than that. It also represents a chance for us, as citizens and believers, to take stock of the importance of religious freedom in the American experience. *Our First Most Cherished Liberty*, a document from the U.S. bishops' Ad-Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty that was published in April 2012, sums it up this way: "By the end of the 18th century, our nation's founders embraced freedom of religion as an essential condition for a free and democratic society." It goes on to implore us to protect the gift of freedom "not only for ourselves, but for all nations and peoples who yearn to be free."

TRUTH AND DIGNITY

The American experience of freedom and the Church's teaching on human freedom and dignity are not identical. However, the Church's social teaching equips us as both citizens and believers to participate robustly in our democratic form of government and to evangelize our society with the truth about the human person and the conditions for human flourishing.

Dignitatis Humanae, the groundbreaking Vatican II document on religious freedom, explains that the principle of religious freedom is rooted in the dignity of the human person, who is "endowed with reason and free will and therefore privileged to bear personal responsibility" (2). This principle is known not only by revelation, but also by reason, and it allows human persons to fulfill their obligation to seek God. Hence religious freedom is rightly identified as a civil or constitutional right that is grounded in the truth about the human person.

According to *Dignitatis Humanae*, all persons "should be at once impelled by nature and also bound by a moral obligation to seek the truth, especially religious truth. They are also bound to adhere to the truth, once it is known, and order their whole lives in accord with the demands of the truth" (2).

To be sure, the freedom to embrace truth might sound like an odd idea in a culture that increasingly values opinion over truth and even rejects the very idea that truth about the nature of things is both knowable and binding on our consciences. Yet when the very notion of truth, especially the truth about the inviolable dignity of the human person, is denied, democracy itself begins to falter. The truth about the human person is the foundation of all our rights, including religious freedom.

Because this principle applies to all people, the bishops have expressed their support not only for religious organizations that are in court fighting to preserve the freedom of church institutions from government interference, but also for private employers who are in court seeking to retain the freedom to run their businesses according to Christian principles.

UNITED IN PRAYER

There is an increasing tendency on the part of many in our society to reduce religious liberty almost solely to freedom of worship. This we must



Last year, Knights participated in Fortnight for Freedom activities throughout the nation. Led by Fourth Degree Knights, Msgr. Steven L. Brovey and Bishop Robert E. Guglielmono of Charleston carry the Blessed Sacrament in procession to Battery Park to mark the launch of the Fortnight for Freedom. Knights escorted the Eucharist to an outdoor altar by the sea, where participants prayed for a resolution to recent assaults on religious freedom. (Douglas Deas/The Catholic Miscellany, Diocese of Charleston, S.C.)

resist. Religious freedom surely includes freedom of worship, but it also includes the freedom for private individuals to live their faith in the workplace and to advocate in the public square those truths and values that flow from faith. Moreover, authentic religious freedom includes the freedom of churches and church organizations to conduct their schools, social services and other activities in accordance with their beliefs and teachings.

Precisely because of this tendency to reduce religious freedom to freedom of worship, we need to come together in prayer. We need to pray as individuals and families. We need to pray in our Knights of Columbus council meetings and at conventions. And we, the family of the Knights of Columbus, need to make every effort to participate wholeheartedly in the national and local activities of this year's Fortnight for Freedom.

May we unite in protecting our first and most cherished freedom, religious liberty!

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM E. LORI of Baltimore is the supreme chaplain and chairman of the U.S. bishops' Ad-Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty.

Knights of Columbus Moves Up Fortune's List of Top Companies

The Knights of Columbus moved up to number 909 on Fortune magazine's recently released 2013 ranking of America's top 1,000 companies. Last year, Fortune's list ranked the Knights of Columbus at 912 in total revenues among the nation's top companies. Over the past six years the Knights of Columbus has climbed 56 spots on the list — up from 965 in 2007.

"Our growth is directly linked to the commitment we have always held to provide quality insurance coverage to our members and their families," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. "Our dedicated network of agents, who are Knights themselves, coupled with sustainable business and investing strategies, serves our members' insurance needs and sustains their confidence, enabling us to grow consistently."

The Knights of Columbus has earned the highest possible rating from A.M. Best (A++ Superior) for the past 37 consecutive years. And no insurer in North America is more highly rated. The Order has nearly \$90 billion of life insurance in force — more than twice the amount of insurance in force in 2000. The organization also has nearly \$20 billion in assets under management.



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As you read this issue of Knightline, the end of another fraternal year is upon us. Where does the time go?

This is the perfect time of year to talk about opportunity, and council leaders should understand why the month of June is so important to all of us Orderwide.

It is more than striving to accomplish the goals set out by the Supreme Council. Don't get me wrong. There is much value in qualifying for Star Council. Every Grand Knight who helps his council achieve Star level should be enormously proud of that accomplishment, and share the accolades with his fellow officers and all the families who support the council during the year.

Remember, the field agent and general agent serving your council want to help secure this success, and are just a phone call away anytime

you need them. They understand what an insurance quota means. It is not simply a number derived from the previous year. It is the measuring stick that shows our progress towards the fulfillment of a mission started in 1882. After all, the ultimate goal is to have every member avail himself of the Order's insurance program. Reaching and exceeding the quota means someday in the future the Knights of Columbus will be there when a family really needs it.

June has even greater significance than just being the busy month when loose ends are tied and awards are won. Finish June strong and your council will carry that energy over into July. This burst of activity can lead to a renewed vigor that will propel your council (and the Order as a whole) for the entire 2013-2014 fraternal year. If your council is going to be a Star Council, I congratulate your efforts.

If your council is going to fall short, please start planning today.

Ask your agent or general agent to schedule more fraternal benefits nights. Studies show that the most people do not understand even simple life insurance concepts, and the information agents can provide to members has tremendous value. Good, solid financial advice is in such short supply nowadays that everyone in the parish (read: potential members and their families) can benefit from what your agent has to say.

Encourage your council's agent to be more involved. Ask him to give your council leadership a "refresher" on the insurance, long-term care, disability income and retirement products the Order offers, and give him your full support.

Together, we can continue to grow our councils and protect more of our families.