At the 131st Supreme Convention in San Antonio, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson delivered an annual report that chronicled the record-setting activity of the Knights during the fraternal year just ended.

The new records include donations of more than $167.5 million to charity and the volunteering by members of more than 70 million hours of service.

The supreme knight highlighted various charitable programs carried out by Knights in more than a dozen countries. Activities ranged from providing new winter coats to children; to helping amputee victims in earthquake-devastated Haiti; to stocking food pantries; to helping victims of disasters such as Hurricane Sandy, the recent explosion in West, Texas, and the tornados in Oklahoma.

“We help change countless lives and communities around the world,” Supreme Knight Anderson said. “Our charitable service not only helps the temporal needs of our neighbors, but our personal witness of charity helps us to endure our own suffering.”

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, and our Holy Father who has been so inspired by him, the Supreme Council is encouraging all councils to conduct outreach programs between Friday, October 4 (the feast day of St. Francis) and Sunday, October 13. St. Francis of Assisi is known as “the man of poverty,” and a central theme of the first days of Pope Francis’ pontificate has been service to the poor. What better way for the Knights of Columbus to show our solidarity with these two holy men than by providing outreach to those less fortunate than ourselves in our parishes and communities?

The Order has many programs in place to assist people who need our help. If hunger is an issue in your community, your council can conduct a Food for Families program by hosting a food drive or preparing and serving a meal at a soup kitchen. If cold weather comes early to your area, the first weeks of October are the perfect time to provide warm winter coats to kids who need one. In areas where the weather is still warm, taking part in a Habitat for Humanity building project could help a family get into their new home.
Coats for Kids

As the calendar turns to September and the kids are back in school, there can be no doubt that summer is behind us and fall and winter are coming.

This is the perfect time to place Coats for Kids orders. By placing your order now, you’ll be guaranteed to have coats on hand by wintertime. Twelve brand-new winter coats cost $220 with shipping included for U.S. orders, or $245 for orders shipped outside of the U.S. For more information visit kofc.org/coats, and download a Coats for Kids order form at kofc.org/forms.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness one family at a time. In addition to making a down payment, recipients are required to work alongside a construction crew and volunteers, after which they are provided an affordable mortgage plan. To date, Habitat for Humanity has helped complete 500,000 houses in more than 50 countries around the world, providing more than 3 million people with safe, personal shelter. Last year, Knights reported more than 1.4 million volunteer service hours in support of Habitat for Humanity.

As one of our eight featured programs, the Supreme Council is offering an incentive for councils to support Habitat for Humanity. If your council provides at least 200 hours of volunteer service and also contributes a minimum of $1,000 to Habitat for Humanity, it will fulfill all four Community Activity requirements for the Columbian Award. The activity must be reported on the Habitat for Humanity Report Form (#10092) and the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728), both due on January 31, 2014. The details should also be noted in the Community Activities section of your Columbian Award Application (#SP-7), due June 30, 2014.

Every council can get involved and make a difference. By working on a Habitat for Humanity building project, your council members will show prospective members that there is a place for them in the Knights of Columbus. For more information on getting involved with Habitat for Humanity visit habitat.org/getinv.

Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest: The Importance of Religious Liberty

This year, the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest will focus on the subject of religious liberty to encourage young people to recognize the importance of this freedom and the need to defend it.

This contest is open to any student in grades 8-12. Visit kofc.org/forms or call 203-752-4016 to get your Contest Kit today.

The Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest is a perfect opportunity for youngsters to affirm their faith and can also be used as an opportunity to familiarize qualified young men and their fathers with membership in the Knights of Columbus.

New Book Released

Historian Jean Meyer’s detailed illustrated history of the Cristero War chronicles the important yet largely unknown early 20th-century struggle of Mexican Catholics against repressive anti-religious laws directed at the Catholic Church. The Knights of Columbus commissioned the book’s English edition, and the supreme knight also penned its foreword. La Cristiada: The Mexican People’s War for Religious Liberty is widely available for purchase in bookstores and online.

Chaplains Meeting Announces Change in Leadership

In an announcement that he called both happy and sad, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson told participants in the State Chaplains Meeting at the Supreme Convention on Aug. 5 that Father John Grace, O.S.A., was retiring after serving for four years as director of Chaplain Programs and Development at the Supreme Council. “Although I’m not sure a missionary priest actually retires,” Anderson said, as Father Grace has served as an Augustinian missionary for most of his priesthood. The supreme knight also announced that Father Jonathan Kalisch, O.P., has been named to succeed Father Grace as director of the Chaplains Program. The meeting of state chaplains was chaired by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori, who pointed out to the priests and bishops that they are successors of Father McGivney.
before the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Assess the needs in your community and conduct an outreach program that addresses one of those needs.

And while you’re conducting your outreach, don’t forget that every program represents a membership recruitment opportunity. Invite prospective members to join you in your work as a way to show a man that there is a place for him in the Knights of Columbus. Also invite members who haven’t been around for a while. Men join the Order to be active — show them that their efforts will be both meaningful and appreciated, and you’ll likely see them more often.

We know that our councils conduct wonderful programs every day, and we hope and expect for that to continue. The intent of this Orderwide Outreach Week is to expand upon and concentrate those good works, and we want to hear about the outstanding programs your council conducts. After Outreach Week is complete, send an email and photos to Knightline@kofc.org to tell us about the programs your council conducted. The Order has a great story to tell, and by letting us know about your council’s programs, you’ll be helping us to tell it.

Immaculate Conception Prayer Program Inaugurated

A new Knights of Columbus Marian Prayer Program was inaugurated during Mass on the second day of the 131st Supreme Convention. The prayer program features framed copies of an image of Mary as the Immaculate Conception that were carried in procession by each state deputy of the Order at the end of Mass during an inauguration ceremony. Presiding at the ceremony was Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori, who prayed for God’s blessing upon the state deputies as they prepared to “carry these images of Our Lady to councils and countries throughout the world.” The Immaculate Conception image is a copy of the original painting that is housed in the Basilica-Cathedral Notre-Dame de Québec in Canada.

2013 International Family of the Year

The 2013 Knights of Columbus International Family of the Year, announced at the Supreme Convention, is the Joseph and Mary Uchytil Family of Msgr. Gehl Council 7895 in Greenville, Wisc., and their children Michael (18), Mikayla (17), Matthew (15), Marcus (13) and Maria (10). The Uchytils’ most impressive trait is their consistent and hardworking dedication to one another, their community and the Church. Among their many accomplishments, the members of the family have been very involved with their community through activities such as fundraising for kidney disease and the Make-a-Wish Foundation, and the establishment of a ministry called “Crafts of Love,” which makes blankets, scarves and hats to provide comfort to people with serious illnesses, especially children with cancer.
As addressed by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson at the membership seminar for state and district leaders, ongoing recruitment efforts are necessary to the Knights’ reputation as the “strong right arm of the Church” as well as to the volunteerism that the Order carries out.

More members mean more charitable works, more needy people helped and a greater ability to assist the Church at the local, diocesan and universal levels. And with the election of Pope Francis, who has “captured the imagination of the world” through his simplicity of life, pastoral manner and call for Catholics to engage in personal service to the most needy and forgotten of society, Knights have a “historic opportunity” to stand “shoulder to shoulder” with the pope to “advance a great chapter of Catholicism in our lifetime.”
# Shining Stars

**Star and Other Council Awards Announced**

Winners of the 2012-2013 Star Council, Columbia, Father McGivney and Founders’ Awards have been announced by the Supreme Council office. Star Council winners numbered 1,053, led by (as of June 30, 2013) Luzon with 113 councils, California with 65 councils and Florida with 59 councils. The totals for the other awards were: 3,319 Columbian Award winners; 2,734 Father McGivney Award winners; and 1,977 Founders’ Award winners. There were also 333 Double Star winners.

Awards are now being engraved and will be forwarded to the district deputies of record. Awards will be sent to the state deputy, if requested. If a council won only a Founders’ Award, it will be sent to the general agent of record.

A complete listing of award winners follows. The listing is in alphabetical order by jurisdiction and contains the council number followed by one or more of the letters: C (Columbian Award), M (McGivney Award), F (Founders’ Award), S (Star Council Award), and DS (Double Star). Questions concerning any of these awards should be forwarded to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal. Look for more detailed listing of Star Council winners in a future issue of *Columbia magazine*.

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The international character and worldwide appeal of the Knights of Columbus were in full display at the Opening Mass of the 131st Supreme Convention in San Antonio. More than 2,000 Knights and guests from many countries attended the liturgy on Aug. 6, the feast of the Transfiguration.

Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio served as the principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass, which was concelebrated by 11 cardinals, dozens of other archbishops and bishops, and more than 100 priests from around the world. Leading the opening procession was an honor guard of more than 100 Fourth Degree Knights. The four state deputies from Mexico also processed carrying a large K of C-commissioned reliquary containing first-class relics of 38 Mexican martyrs, including six saints and three blessed who were Knights.

In his homily, Archbishop García-Siller thanked Knights of Columbus for their worldwide work of aiding those most in need, efforts that amounted last year to more than $167 million in charitable donations and 70 million volunteer hours.

The account of the Transfiguration from the Gospel of St. Luke tells of the brilliant divinity of Jesus, but also contains suggestions of shadows in the world, the archbishop said. “The Transfiguration is both a dazzling experience that confirmed who Jesus is — the Son of God — and a frightening event that reduced the disciples to silence. There is both light and shadow in this story,” he said.

Among the shadows in today’s world, he continued, “is the constant migration of peoples” who are fleeing situations in their own countries and seeking a better life in another. The Church and all believers must seek ways to reach out and assist these people because they are brothers and sisters in the Lord, the archbishop noted.

He concluded, “Pope Francis’ words still ring for us a true challenge that shines with the light of the very principles of the Knights of Columbus: ‘Go. Do not be afraid. Serve.’” The archbishop also thanked the Knights for their worldwide work of aiding those most in need.

The archbishop said, “Your principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism are vital for the Church and vital for our country and nations throughout the world.”

Head of the Archdiocese of Lviv in Ukraine since 2008, Archbishop Mieczysław Mokrzycki spoke at the end of the annual Memorial Mass offered for all deceased Knights of Columbus on Aug. 8, the final day of the Supreme Convention. He was at the convention as part of the announcement of the formation of two councils in Ukraine and one round table in Lithuania.
A Show of Excellence  
*Supreme Knight’s Award Session*

Throughout the year, members of the Knights of Columbus make outstanding accomplishments in membership, insurance and programming. Below is a partial list of some of this year’s award winners. For a full listing visit the Awards section of kofc.org/convention.

**Top Recruiter**  
James R. Stachura Jr.  
John F. Kennedy Council 1257  
Eau Claire, Wis.  
152 New Members

**Star Council**  
Grand Knight Richard P. Tagorda  
Centennial Council 8079  
Des Moines, Wash.

Grand Knight Luis E. Kamei  
St. Augustine Council 15376  
Tucson, Ariz.

Past Grand Knight  
Mauro D. Songcuán  
St. Matthews Council 11879  
Bellevue, Neb.

Grand Knight Jose A. Zavala  
San Jose Council 15448  
Brownsville, Texas

**Star District**  
Edgardo R. Panes  
District 23, British Columbia

Angel Hernandez  
District 44, Florida

Timothy A. Helbling  
District 10, Louisiana

John C. Sprouse  
District 51, Ohio

**Insurance Awards**  
*Company Leaders*  
General Agent George A. Spinelli  
Kansas  
281% of Quota

General Agent Anthony W. Swanson  
Nebraska  
248% of Quota

Field Agent Justin Deges  
Kansas  
665% of Quota

Field Agent Benjamin M. Santo  
Nebraska  
631% of Quota

**Service Program Winners**  
*Church Activities*  
Sharing Our Faith: Chapel Construction for the Dumagat Ethnic Group  
Marikina Valley Council 6178  
Marikina City, Luzon

Community Activities  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
Fairview Council 4044  
Chicopee, Mass.

**Council Activities**  
Knights of Columbus Journey for Charity Tractor Cruise  
Fr. Mathaushek Council 1576  
Union, Mo.

**Culture of Life Activities**  
“Celebrate Life” Mass and Dinner  
Naperville Council 1369  
Naperville, Ill.

**Family Activities**  
Ryan Sextro Family Benefit  
Baileyville Knights Council 13087  
Baileyville, Kan.

Youth Activities (tie)  
“No to Bullying, Yes to Respect”  
Donat Robichaud Council 9178  
Cap-Pelé, New Brunswick

JerusalemStudents.org  
Jesus the King Arab Christian Council 15045  
Markham, Ontario

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Knights of Columbus Expand to Ukraine, Lithuania

At this year’s international convention, Ukraine and Lithuania were added to a list of nearly a dozen countries in which the organization is active, becoming the second and third Central and Eastern European countries with active Knights. The Knights of Columbus entered Poland in 2006.

The Knights began working in Ukraine after being encouraged by Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, major archbishop of Kyiv-Halyč, at the 123rd convention in 2005. Since the invitation, the Knights have established two councils in the country. In Lithuania, the Knights have established a round table.

Members of the hierarchy from both countries were among the more than 90 bishops and cardinals at the gathering in Texas. Archbishop Mieczysław Mokrzycki of Lviv, Ukraine, and Archbishop Gintaras Grušas of Vilnius, Lithuania, also addressed the convention during the Wednesday business session.

**Star Councils**

Has your council developed a plan for attainment of the Star Council Award or Double Star Council Award this fraternal year? If not, now is the time to do so. Every grand knight should schedule a meeting with the council officers and program personnel, and especially the chaplain and the council’s field agent, to develop a plan of action for membership recruitment, insurance promotion and Service Program activity. Once the plan is developed, put it into action and your council will be counted among the Stars for the 2013-2014 fraternal year.
Two past state deputies were elected to the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors by the delegates of the Supreme Convention. Elected for a three-year term were Michael Wills of Tennessee and Daniel Rossi of New Jersey. They replace a pair of board members who completed their terms, John Wainscott of Utah and David Bellendier of Iowa.

Wills, 61 years old, is an attorney who joined the Knights of Columbus in 1983 and is a member of All Saints Council 15076 and Msgr. F.D. Grady Assembly 1083, both in Knoxville. He served two years as Tennessee state deputy. He and his wife, Kathleen, have three grown children and are active members of All Saints Parish in Knoxville.

Rossi and his wife, Alyce, also have three grown children. He joined the Order in 1987 and belongs to St. Gregory the Great Council 7677 in Hamilton Square and Bishop Griffin Assembly 655 in Trenton. He served the past two years as New Jersey state deputy.

How to Conduct a Church Drive

1. The Preparation Phase
   - Get permission from the pastor to hold the drive at all Masses on a set weekend.
   - Work with your pastor/parish secretary to advertise the drive in the parish bulletin.
   - Order all of your recruiting materials from the Supreme Council Supply Department (allow 4-5 weeks for shipping and receiving).
   - Organize your members for the drive weekend. Make sure that enough council members are committed to covering each Mass.
   - Contact your council’s field agent to get his assistance.
   - Schedule a First Degree exemplification within one month of the recruitment drive.

2. The Execution Phase
   - Arrange for the membership recruitment announcement to be made during Mass.
   - Have members positioned at the entrances of the Church or other appropriate areas to talk to prospects about joining and to help them complete a Membership Document (#100), or a Prospect Card (#921-A) if he’d rather learn more about the Knights before filling out a membership document. These members should be identifiable as Knights and have a good knowledge of the council and the Order.

3. The Follow-Up Phase
   - Within 48 HOURS, council members must contact every prospect who completed a Membership Document (#100) or expressed interest in joining during the execution phase.
   - Schedule a council charitable activity (such as a food drive, coats distribution, etc.) within the two weeks following your church drive and invite interested prospects to attend so they can see firsthand what your council does.
   - Inform prospects of the date, time and location of the open house and invite families to attend as well. Also, let them know the date, time and location of the First Degree exemplification.
I know from the council bulletins I read every month that our newsletter editors — and increasingly, our council website developers — do a great job in communicating council news and Orderwide events. For many years now we have encouraged our agents to write a monthly column for the newsletters or websites of the councils they serve.

Knights of Columbus insurance agents, aside from being professionally trained experts in the field, are knowledgeable ambassadors of the Order. Giving your agent a presence in the council bulletin can help your council reach its insurance quota and earn the Founders’ Award, one of the three awards needed to achieve Star Council status.

Our agents are salesmen, however, not writers. Many of them have difficulty meeting several bulletin deadlines in addition to their professional and fraternal responsibilities. My office has a solution that will help agents and the bulletin editors. We have prepared a number of articles for council bulletins, which are available from the Supreme Council office. Included is an article for each month of the year, along with a couple of alternative articles should the need ever arise.

These articles are short, to the point and easily edited. Most are about the same length as this column (between 200-300 words). All the bulletin editor needs to do is add the agent’s name and telephone number (or the general agent’s information if the council is presently not served by a field agent) to the end of the story.

Interested? You can request these articles from us. Send your request to Rudy Sturk at field.management@kofc.org.