Knights of Columbus Co-Sponsors Vatican Conference in Mexico City on New Evangelization in America

The pilgrimage and meeting titled “Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization on the American Continent,” held Nov. 16-19 in Mexico City, had hundreds of attendees from around the hemisphere — including more than 70 bishops and several cardinals from Canada, the United States, Mexico and Central and South America.

The event began with a procession of flags of nations from throughout the continent and the world, and the enthronement of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the Marian Plaza Congress Hall, presided over by Cardinal Marc Ouellet, president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

After words of welcome by Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera, archbishop of Mexico City, and Msgr. Enrique Glennie, the rector of the Guadalupe Basilica, Cardinal Ouellet introduced the conference. Archbishop Christophe Pierre, papal nuncio to Mexico, then greeted the attendees and introduced a video greeting from Pope Francis.

In his greeting, Pope Francis called on the laity and clergy to fulfill their important roles within the Catholic Church. He called on Catholics to go “to the peripheries,” and he warned against the dangers of clericalism and self-referentialism within the Church.

Archbishop Orani João Tempesta of Rio de Janeiro then spoke, followed by Archbishop Charles Chaput, OFM, Cap., of Philadelphia. Archbishop Chaput discussed the responsibilities and challenges facing the New Evangelization in America, highlighting three problems: drugs, poverty (temporal and moral) and ourselves.

Archbishop Chaput noted that moral poverty is “like a parasite of the soul. It leaves us constantly eating but constantly hungry for something more — all the while starving the spirit that makes us truly human.”

He encouraged his brother bishops to take up the enormous work of see New Evangelization, Page 2

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Fraternal Survey: Tells Our Story of Service Best

Councils, assemblies and circles must complete the 2013 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) and submit it to the Supreme Council office by Jan. 31, 2014. This form can be filed electronically by going to kofc.org/forms, or you can mail in the hard copy from the Council Reports Forms Booklet (#1436).

Grand Knight Checklist – December

- January 1 – Council Per Capita and Catholic Advertising Assessments levied by the Supreme Council based on total membership minus honorary, honorary life, and disability members.
- January 1 – Culture of Life fund assessment levied by the Supreme Council based on total membership minus honorary, honorary life, and disability members.
- January 31 – Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) due.
- January 30 – Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics (#4583), Free Throw Championship Participation Form (FT-1) and Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest Participation Form (#4001) all due.
- Review how your council will participate in the annual Coats for Kids and Food for Families initiatives.
- Begin collecting your council’s data for the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) due after the start of the new year.
- Make sure your council is on the path to earning the Star Council Award.
Pope Francis Documentary
Now Available on DVD

Francis: The Pope from the New World is now available on DVD through Amazon.com. The production features interviews with Pope Francis’ friends and associates in Argentina, as well as with American commentators such as Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and members of the Church hierarchy, including Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Cardinal Sean O’Malley, Archbishop Charles Chaput and Archbishop Jose Gomez. The world has been fascinated by our new Holy Father, but many people still do not fully know the man who is now our pope. This film introduces viewers to Jorge Mario Bergoglio — the man who became Pope Francis — and his life story, from his childhood and the patronage of his local soccer team to his vocation and time as a priest, bishop and then cardinal archbishop of Buenos Aires. For more information on the film, visit PopeFrancisDocumentary.com.

Supreme Knight Addresses
Mexican Bishops Conference

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson addressed the Mexican Bishops Conference in Mexico City on Thursday, Nov. 14. He spoke of the history of the Knights of Columbus in Mexico, the Order’s plans to further develop in Mexico in solidarity with the bishops, and the importance of the New Evangelization being pioneered through solidarity between the Churches in America. Citing Blessed John Paul II’s apostolic exhortation Ecclesia in America, the Supreme Knight spoke of the need for solidarity within the American hemisphere, particularly between Mexico and the United States.

New Evangelization, from Page 1

the New Evangelization, while being self-critical and examining their work honestly.

Msgr. Eduardo Chavez, postulator of the cause, also spoke Saturday, explaining in detail the historical circumstances and meaning of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe and discussing her role as “star of the first and new evangelization in America.”

The day concluded with the recitation of the “Rosary of Guadalupan Love” while in procession to the top of Tepeyac Hill, followed by a Mass in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe at which Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera served as main celebrant and homilist.

Sunday morning, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson addressed the congress on the communion and collaboration between the churches of the entire continent in view of the New Evangelization.

He noted that Christianity is increasingly shifting to the Southern Hemisphere and that as it does so, the American model of evangelization, based on Our Lady of Guadalupe, will be increasingly important, both on this continent and beyond. The Supreme Knight pointed out that this process is already underway with the vision of America presented by Pope John Paul II, and is now evident in the election and witness of Pope Francis. He added that evangelization by and through the domestic Church must also be part of our analysis of the New Evangelization.

The conference concluded with reports from various groups that met to discuss the missionary role of the Church in America and panel discussions with significant Church leaders, including leaders of bishops’ conferences from North and South America. The historic pilgrimage and meeting ended with Holy Mass celebrated by Cardinal Ouellet, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops.

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.
Monument Honoring Past Supreme Knight Luke E. Hart Rededicated

The Order honored the late Luke E. Hart, a past supreme knight, in a rededication ceremony of his monument in St. Louis, Mo., earlier this fall. The monument was recently restored, and a number of titles that Hart earned during his lifetime were added. Auxiliary Bishop Edward M. Rice of St. Louis presided at the service, which included a brief address by Past Supreme Knight Virgil Dechant. An honor guard of more than 60 Fourth Degree Knights was also present. Hart served on the K of C Board of Directors from 1918 until his death in 1964. Under his leadership, the Knights lobbied the U.S. Congress to add the words “Under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance. In Faith and Fraternalism, a history of the Order, Dr. Christopher Kauffman wrote of Hart: “He was the most thoroughly prepared man ever to hold the highest office in the Order. ... He had a masterly command of every facet of the Order.”

Order’s Leaders Meet in Québec

The leadership of the Knights of Columbus convened in Québec City, Nov. 6-10, for their semiannual Midyear Meeting to plan charitable, spiritual and recruitment activities in the coming months.

The meeting gathered the Order’s supreme officers, board of directors and the 70 state deputies who lead the organization in Canada, the United States, Mexico, the Philippines and Poland. Also participating in the meeting were the priests who serve as state chaplains from those jurisdictions, as well as five bishops (Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, the Order’s supreme chaplain; Bishop Frederick J. Colli of Thunder Bay; Bishop Ronald P. Herzog of Alexandria; Bishop Bryan J. Bayda, C.SS.R. of Saskatoon (Ukrainian); and Bishop Noël Simard of Valleyfield).

Québec City was chosen for the site of this meeting in response to the invitation extended by Québec Archbishop Gérald Cyprien Lacroix at the Knights’ 130th Supreme Convention in Anaheim, in 2012.

The Knights were welcomed to the Cathedral-Basilica of Notre-Dame de Québec on Thursday, Nov. 7, for a solemn Mass celebrated by Québec Archbishop Gérald Cyprien Lacroix, a strong supporter and member of the Knights. At the conclusion of the Mass, Archbishop Lacroix, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore paused at the tomb see Québec, Page 4

Knights of Columbus Donates $250,000 to Assist in Philippine Relief

*K of C Charities accepting donations to assist the relief efforts*

In the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan — one of the strongest typhoons in history — which devastated the Philippines, the Knights of Columbus donated $250,000 to assist in relief efforts in that country.

“As we work to assist those who have suffered so much in the Philippines, they will also remain in our prayers,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “The Knights of Columbus has a long tradition of charitable service in the Philippines, and our efforts there on behalf of those affected will continue in that spirit. Locally and internationally, we are committed to helping the people of the Philippines rebuild their lives.”

Those seeking to assist with the relief efforts can donate to the Knights of Columbus Charities Philippine Disaster Relief Fund at http://kofc.org/un/en/charities/articles/disasterrelief.html.

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, and 100 percent of all donations collected by Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc., will be used for disaster relief in the Philippines.
in recognition of the Order’s support for its creation.

In addition, on Aug. 6, at the Knights’ 131st Supreme Convention in San Antonio, the Order’s new international Marian Prayer Program was inaugurated. The program features the painting of the Immaculate Conception that hangs above the main altar in the Cathedral-Basilica Notre-Dame de Québec, painted in 1925 by Sister Mary of the Eucharist, a Sister of Charity of Québec, to replace the 18th-century painting destroyed during a fire at the cathedral in 1922.

Through this program, framed reproductions of this painting, each blessed by Pope Francis, will travel between the Order’s more than 14,000 local councils around the world for the purpose of organizing rosary-based prayer services for Knights, their families and other Catholics.

The current prayer program honoring the Immaculate Conception is the 16th program organized by the Knights of Columbus to use a sacred image as its centerpiece. The first such program was held in 1979 with images of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas. Over the years, the Blessed Mother has also been honored by her Knights under her various titles, including: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Our Lady of Pochaiv, Our Lady of the Assumption, Our Lady of the New Advent, Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Charity and Our Lady of Guadalupe. These Orderwide prayer programs have brought together more than 16 million people at some 140,000 prayer services conducted at local councils and parishes.

As the year draws to a close, has your council had an opportunity to participate in a Special Olympics event? According to the Special Olympics website, the organization holds 50,000 competitions a year, or an average of 136 each day, bringing together athletes, coaches, volunteers and support from local communities. There will likely be an upcoming Special Olympics event in your community where council members can get involved, engage with families and friends, and experience the rewarding feeling of satisfaction that comes with volunteering at a Special Olympics event. If your council is not already involved in Special Olympics, find out how it can be by contacting your State Special Olympics Chairman or visiting www.specialolympics.org.

The Supreme Council is offering an incentive for councils to support local Special Olympics organizations. If a council meets the minimum requirements for monies raised and volunteered hours, it will fulfill all four of the Council Activity requirements for the Columbian Award. The council must provide at least 200 volunteer hours in support of state/local Special Olympics activities and raise — alone or in cooperation with parish or community fundraising activities — a minimum of $2,000.

The Knights of Columbus has always had a close relationship with Special Olympics, and we are proud of our tradition of support. Please remember to visit www.kofc.org/forms and submit your council’s Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics Form (#4584).
Introducing Two New Policy Riders

As part of the Order’s continued effort to provide the best service to our members and their families, Knights of Columbus Insurance now offers two accelerated death benefit policy riders: Chronic Illness Accelerated Death Benefit (CI-ADB) and Terminal Illness Accelerated Death Benefit (TI-ADB). These new life riders provide additional living benefits on our permanent life insurance plans. These riders are designed to allow an insured to have access to death benefit money when certain conditions are met before death. Best of all, there are no premiums charged for these riders.

These riders are available on most fully-underwritten, single-life permanent policies. A policy can be issued with both of these riders; however, the policy owner can only make a claim under one. The Chronic Illness Accelerated Death Benefit Rider can be claimed if the insured is chronically ill and permanently resides in a nursing home. The Terminal Illness Accelerated Death Benefit Rider can be claimed when the insured is certified as terminally ill (with a life expectancy of 12 months or less).

These new riders add to the list of many value-added options available on Knights of Columbus permanent plans. Do you know about our Guaranteed Purchase Option (GPO) Rider, which allows for the purchase of more insurance without proof of insurability? How about our Spousal Waiver of Premium Rider?

The best way to learn about all the riders, options and plans offered by the Order is to contact your local field agent or general agent. He can help find protection that suits your family’s needs.

What Are Our Insurance Agents About?

By Martin Leal, DD 168

As a teacher of Texas history, I always tell my students how big and vast the state of Texas is. As a district deputy I always tell new and old members alike how our insurance program is second to none and that they should spend an hour or two with one of our field agents. As a father of two sons who are Knights I am very proud to be a member of the Knights of Columbus, and my wife has enjoyed her time with the Knights and the wives of my brother Knights. She is very proud of her three Knights, but is extremely proud of her youngest, Lazaro. He has earned his way into one of the top Catholic universities in Texas, currently a junior at Our Lady of the Lake in San Antonio. Now, many of you may be asking yourselves, “What is this brother rambling on about?” On Nov. 29, I was in my class teaching when I received a text message from my son, informing me that he had been sick the night before and taken to the hospital. I figured he was already out, as he did not elaborate further. I called him, and he informed me he was still in the hospital. I made arrangements to take time off to go see him. An hour later, he sent me another text that indicated he was going to require surgery. I called him and there was no answer; the numbers I had for him and his friends were not getting through. We live in Brownsville, and he was in San Antonio — a five-hour drive. My wife, like most mothers would, became very worried, and the lack of communication made it worse. She was on the verge of a nervous fit — and to tell the truth, so was I, but I was not letting on. I was not looking forward to a long trip with a very worried mom, and I felt the vastness of Texas hitting me at once. I suggested that she go on Facebook and ask for prayers for our son, as this would get much-needed prayers coming our way and give her something to do as we raced to San Antonio. We started getting prayers and phone calls. One call in particular would change the world for my wife and I — a call from Cyndi Hernandez, the wife of our general agent, Joseph Hernandez. She was calling to see how she could help. Joseph must have heard her and asked what was going on; when he got the story, he jumped into action. He made a call, and within a few minutes he had contacted Field Agent Michael Henriquez in San Antonio. Michael was 10 minutes away from the hospital, and within 20 minutes he was calling us with reports on the condition of our son. Michael’s call brought a sense of peace to my wife. He spent a few hours with Lazaro and kept us posted while we got to San Antonio. The trip to San Antonio was still tense but a whole lot easier. Joseph and Michael exemplify what the Order is about. With agents such as these, I know my family will be taken care of when my time comes to go to my final resting place. In times of need, the Order is there, and our agents are on the frontline with us.
**Service Programs**

**Plan Now to Support the 2014 March for Life**

During the first few months of 2014, Knights in the United States, Canada and the Philippines will have the opportunity to stand up in defense of life at marches and “Walk for Life” events.

In the United States, the annual March for Life will be held in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, Jan. 22, to call for overturning the U.S. Supreme Court’s infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy. Visit marchforlife.org for more information.

Every council is encouraged to organize a bus, subsidize marchers, or provide a free bus for Knights and others wishing to participate in the March for Life in Washington, D.C.; the Walk for Life – West Coast, in San Francisco; or some other pro-life march, walk, conference or rally nearer to home.

To assist you in building a culture of life, the Supreme Council offers a variety of materials free of charge, except for shipping, if ordered in reasonable quantities. See the Supply Catalog (#1264) for a complete listing or visit http://www.kofc.org/un/en/prolife/programs/support_materials.html.

Order Knights of Columbus “Defend Life” signs (13” x 20”) (#9341 in English, French or Spanish) for your event by calling 203-752-4403 or send an email to william.obrien@kofc.org with your name, address, telephone number and the exact number of signs you wish to order.

The Supreme Council will count a qualifying March or Walk for Life event as fulfilling all four of the Culture of Life activities requirements for the Columbian Award. In order to qualify, councils must involve a minimum of 100 Knights/family members/parishioners/students in a local, regional or national March for Life event and then submit a Featured Programs Report Form with the March for Life section completed.

**Orderwide Outreach Week**

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi and to show solidarity with Pope Francis’ call for service to the poor, the Supreme Council encouraged Knights to conduct charitable activities from Oct. 4 (the feast day of St. Francis) to Oct. 12. The following are some of the many initiatives taken on by Knights across the globe during our Orderwide Outreach Week.

True to the inspiration given by St. Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis, Council 8262 (Luzon) has continued its tradition of hosting the Food for Families program. Assisted by local government workers, malnourished families were served meals and taught how to eat nutritiously and economically.

Delaware Council 1056 (Ohio) took it upon themselves to literally ease the weight of a single mother’s struggles by helping her family relocate to an apartment. Knights provided a trailer and pickup truck, lifted and reassembled furniture, worked on repairing the woman’s car, and joined the family for a group prayer in their new home. The mother, a recent convert to Catholicism, said that the service of the Knights reaffirmed her belief that “God loved her.”

Father Shine Council 1966 (Neb.) helped a woman with disabilities by replacing her home’s roof. All materials were donated or paid for by the council, and over 50 hours of labor were contributed to the effort. In total, the woman was saved thousands of dollars.

More than 50 homeless people didn’t have to go to bed hungry thanks to the combined efforts of La Purisima Council 3570 (Lompoc, Calif.) and their family members, as well as local lay organizations. They served a hearty meal of salad, Mexican meatball soup, grilled quesadillas and various cakes. Afterward, all guests were also provided with a brown-bag lunch for the following day.

St. Ann Council 10289 of Raynham, Mass., worked with leaders of
Service Programs (cont.)

Orderwide Outreach Week, from Page 6
their parish and community to hold a winter coat/clothing drive at their parish. Their collaborative effort was a huge success, collecting over 75 quality coats, as well as other clothing and accessories, for kids and adults. The visibility of the Knights working with Vincentian brothers and sisters was evident and produced four new membership applications into the council.

LTC Timothy J. Maude Council 10292 of Rhein Main, Germany, donated six large bags of canned foods and other products to a women’s shelter. They have made donations and assisted in feeding the poor since 2006 — a tradition that they intend to continue as they contribute to additional local food shelters.

Acts of charity can touch the lives of those both near and far, as demonstrated by the Spanish Jesuit Martyrs of Virginia Council 14034 in Quinton. Working with Through the Hands Across the SEAS (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish) and Cigars for Warriors, 135 care packages with cards and letters, in addition to 40 cigars, are being sent to troops serving in Afghanistan. Locally, 40 books were collected for incarcerated veterans in a local correctional center, and 75 pounds of food was donated to the Poor Clare Sisters in West Point, Va.

When Holy Trinity Parish of Des Moines, Iowa, decided to hold a walkathon to generate funds to purchase new technology for its associated school, they called upon the Knights of Father Francis Ostodie Council 14029 to help feed 700 hungry walkers. The council stepped up with the needed funds and manpower to make this dinner a welcome reward and managed to raise $35,221 that will go toward purchasing new technology for the classrooms.

Membership Recruitment

Start Your Year Out by Recruiting Former Members

Former Knights are men who are familiar with the ideals of Columbianism. They left the Order at one time but represent a pool of prospects that councils should not overlook in striving for membership growth.

• Appoint a special “Welcome Back Brother” committee specifically to recruit former members. Past grand knights familiar with circumstances of earlier departures are especially suited.
• Obtain a list of “Former Members” (those who took withdrawals/suspensions) and “Inactive Insurance Members” (those who took withdrawals/suspensions but maintain K of C insurance policies) from the Department of Fraternal Services by calling 203-752-4247 or 203-752-4473. Check with your financial secretary for additional names and most recent addresses.
• Review the list to determine former members known to be residing in the area who are eligible for membership.
• Prepare information for a presentation for former members, highlighting changes, new programs/activities/benefits and recent council achievements.
• Order recruitment materials from the Supply Department. Prepare kits of these materials for distribution.

• Contact each former member by phone to arrange a personal visit or invite them to a reception for former members.
• If conducting personal visits, tailor presentations to highlight new changes/benefits, etc.
• If planning a “Welcome Back” or former-member reception, use the open house procedures. Be sure to invite your council chaplain and insurance agent to speak at the event.
• Refer to the Grand Knight’s Handbook (#915), Membership Procedures section, for proper procedures for recruiting former members.
• Ask every former member visited or those at the reception to sign a Membership Document (#100) to renew membership.

NOTE: Reactivating inactive insurance members qualifies the council for both membership and insurance additions toward Father McGivney and Founders’ Awards quotas.

NOTE: Reinstatements, readmissions or reapplications qualify the council for membership additions for the Father McGivney Award.

Short Takes

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship to Include 9 Year Olds

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship has been providing a safe, positive environment for kids of all faiths for more than 40 years. The program is expanding — 9-year-old boys and girls are now eligible to compete. The contest is easy to conduct, materials for 75 participants.

Included to advertise the contest beforehand. Try to preregister contestants prior to the event to get an idea of how many kids will participate. Local winners can move up the ladder to district, regional and state level contests, with the highest scoring state winner receiving our new International Championship Crystal Trophy.

Those without internet access can call 203-752-4016 to order the kit. Use the posters included to advertise the contest beforehand. Try to preregister contestants prior to the event to get an idea of how many kids will participate. Local winners can move up the ladder to district, regional and state level contests, with the highest scoring state winner receiving our new International Championship Crystal Trophy.

Food for Families

While the need to feed hungry families is constant, the Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas season is traditionally a time of increased Knights of Columbus outreach to feed hungry people. In order to encourage increased council outreach to food banks, food pantries and soup kitchens, the Knights of Columbus offers financial rebates to councils that donate food or money. The Supreme Council will refund $100 for every $500 or 500 pounds of food that a council contributes to a parish food pantry, community food bank or soup kitchen, up to a maximum refund of $500 per council per fraternal year. Indicated contributions of food and/or money should be cumulative for the fraternal year. Although food donations are valuable, food bank managers often say that contributions of money are even more valuable, as they allow the food bank to procure exactly the food items that they need. In addition to monetary donations, volunteer support may be provided to help sort food and perform other valuable functions.
CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS
BY GIVING YOUR FAMILY
A LIFELONG GIFT

Find an agent at kofc.org or call 1-800-345-5632