Knights of Columbus Sets Insurance Record for 13th Consecutive Year

Growth of 89 percent over a decade for K of C top-rated insurance

The Knights of Columbus recorded its 13th consecutive year of growth in insurance sales with nearly $8.2 billion in new life insurance sold. The record sales are part of the organization’s impressive 89 percent growth in business since 2003.

The Knights logged $72 billion in new insurance over the last 10 years, making for an annual growth rate in new policies of 4.6 percent despite recession and slow economic recovery during the second half of that period. With nearly 93,000 new contracts issued in all lines of business in 2013, the K of C now has nearly 2 million contracts in force.

“In 132 years of operation, the Knights of Columbus has helped meet the spiritual and financial needs of Catholic families while also serving the community through charitable works,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “We are pleased to have had great success on both of these fronts, which comes from our continued commitment to our founding mission of serving our neighbor consistent with Catholic social teaching.”

Supreme Knight Anderson explained that record-breaking insurance results mean that the K of C has “helped its members to protect their families while simultaneously enabling the Knights to support those most in need and the many works of the Catholic Church.”

The Knights enjoys a stalwart reputation for financial security, has one of the lowest lapse rates in the industry and offers a product line designed to provide life insurance, annuities, disability income and long-term care policies to meet the needs of Catholic families.

For 38 consecutive years, the Knights of Columbus has earned an A++ (Superior) rating from A.M. Best Company for its financial stability, and there is no more highly rated life insurer in North America. The organization is also at an all-time high in its number of agents, with more than 1,500 in service within the United States and Canada.

Knights of Columbus to Donate More Than $750,000 for Relief Efforts in Philippines

In the aftermath of the Philippines’ Typhoon Haiyan — considered the strongest recorded storm ever to make landfall — the Knights of Columbus donated more than $750,000 to assist in relief efforts. Some $500,000 of that amount has come from local K of C councils and individuals from throughout North America.

Fraternal Survey: Please Send in ASAP

Councils, assemblies and circles should have completed the 2013 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) and submitted it to the Supreme Council office by Jan. 31. If you have not already done so, please send in your survey immediately. This form is available at kofc.org/forms or in the Council Reports Forms booklet (#1436).

Grand Knight Checklist — February

If your council has not yet taken the actions below, do so immediately:

• Council Per Capita and Catholic Advertising assessments levied by the Supreme Council based on total membership minus honorary life and members on disability.
• Culture of Life fund assessment levied by the Supreme Council based on total membership minus honorary, inactive insurance, honorary life, and members on disability.
• Submit Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728).
• Submit Partnership Profile Report With Special Olympics (#4583), Free Throw Championship Participation Form (FT-1) and Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest Participation Form (#4001).
• Plan for your council’s participation in the Day of the Unborn Child commemoration (March 25).
• Schedule activities to celebrate Founders Day (March 29).
• Make sure your council is on the path to earning the Star Council Award.
What is Your Council Doing for Lent?
One Can of Food Can Make a Difference

Hunger knows no season. As the economy sputters along many people are going hungry. Fortunately, through our Food for Families program, the Knights of Columbus is in a position to help.

Councils should reach out to parish food pantries, community food banks and soup kitchens and collect non-perishable food at weekend Masses. Many grocery stores will allow the collection of food outside of their stores. The key is to ask — and to work within the parameters that the store manager has established. The goal is to help keep food pantries well-stocked all year round. Also purchase or secure through donations enough food to prepare a meal at a soup kitchen or in the parish hall.

During Lent, conduct a “40 Cans for Lent” program in your council and parish. The goal of this program is for each council member and each parishioner to contribute one can of food per day during the forty days of Lent. This program was conducted in 2011 by Our Lady of Guadalupe Council 8306 in Helotes, Texas, and 4,300 cans of food were collected for distribution to food pantries, food banks and soup kitchens.

As an incentive, the Supreme Council will count a qualifying Food for Families program as fulfilling all four of the Family Activities requirements for the Columbian Award. In order to qualify, councils must meet the minimum requirements (a minimum of 1,000 pounds of food collected and distributed, and 100 man-hours of service in the preparation/distribution/service of meals to needy people), and then complete and submit the Food for Families report form (#10057). Also, outline the details of your council’s Food for Families program on your Columbian Award Application (due by June 30, 2014). All of these forms can be easily accessed at www.kofc.org/forms. Contact Jason Porrello, program manager for Food for Families, with any questions you may have at 203-752-4571 or jason.porrello@kofc.org.

Orderwide Outreach Week – March 22-30

Initiative urges councils to conduct charitable activities

In honor of our founder, Venerable Father Michael McGivney, the Supreme Council is encouraging all councils to conduct outreach programs March 22-30, the week that encompasses Founder’s Day (March 29). What better way for the Knights of Columbus to show they still follow Father McGivney’s devotion to helping people in need 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, consider conducting a Food for Families program such as a food drive, or preparing and serving a meal at a soup kitchen. If warm weather comes early to your area, late March might be the perfect time to take part in a Habitat for Humanity building project. Of course, programs like the Order’s Ultrasound Initiative and Special Olympics can be conducted during this Outreach Week or at any time during the year. Please visit kofc.org/service for additional ideas on specific programs your council might conduct. Councils do an outstanding job of assessing needs in their individual communities and developing programs to meet those needs, so you should in no way limit yourself to the program ideas referenced here or on the website. Whatever your council chooses to do, the important thing is that each and every council does something to make life better in its parish and community.

While your council is conducting outreach programs during this week and throughout the year, it is important to remember that every program represents a membership recruitment opportunity. A great way to convince a prospect to join the Order — or to get a current member to be more active in the council — is to invite him to participate in a program that allows him to put his faith into action. Men join the Order to be active, and council programs give them the opportunity to do exactly that.

Finally, tell us about the programs your council conducts during Outreach Week by sending an email to communications@kofc.org. We will feature the best programs in the Knights in Action section of Columbia, Knightline or on the website.
Day of the Unborn Child

With the Knights of Columbus Day of the Unborn Child soon approaching on March 25, Knights have the opportunity to stand up and speak out against the evil of abortion. All members of the Order are encouraged to hold a special prayer service in council meeting places or local parishes. When celebrating the Day of the Unborn Child, councils are encouraged to conduct a pro-life Mass or rosary service. Remember to invite all members of the community, including public officials and health care workers. Strength in numbers gives others the courage to speak up and also lets the community know there is a group willing to help women in crisis pregnancies. To plan a service, councils should:

- Consult with their chaplain or the pastor of the local parish to establish a time and kind of service (i.e. rosary, Mass, etc.).
- Ask the pastor to make a pulpit or bulletin announcement regarding the program for the Day of Prayer for the Unborn Child at all Masses the weekend prior to the event.
- Send a notice to the local diocesan newspaper and local secular media.
- Distribute Prayer for Life cards (#4665), available in reasonable quantities from the Supply Department.

The Knights of Columbus Day of the Unborn Child was instituted as an addition to the Order’s commitment to build a culture that respects and protects every human life, from conception to natural death. For more information on the Knights of Columbus Day of the Unborn Child, see the “Community” section of kofc.org/service.

In addition, to further assist your culture of life activities, the Supreme Council offers the following materials (all of which are free of charge when ordered in reasonable quantities; there is only a shipping charge):

- The four-page, full-color Winning Words of Life flyer (#2275) offers thoughtful responses to common abortion arguments.
- The brochure A People of Life — And for Life (#4795) outlines the Order’s commitment to reversing the trend toward a culture of death, and to building a culture that values human life at every stage. A poster (#4804) with a similar design is also available.
- Pray the Rosary to End Abortion poster (#2073) and prayer card (#2072).
- Gospel of Life poster (#4238) and prayer card (#4237E, F, or S) in English, French or Spanish.

Celebrate Our Founder

The Knights of Columbus began in the basement of St. Mary’s Church in New Haven in 1882, when Father Michael J. McGivney called together a small group of pioneering Catholic laymen and founded a society designed to provide financial assistance for widows and orphans of members.

Because March 29 is the date which marks the anniversary of the Order receiving its charter from the state of Connecticut, your council should consider holding Founder’s Day activities either the weekend before or after. Here are just a few Founder’s Day events your council can sponsor to celebrate the founding of our Order, as well as the institution of your council:

- Participate in the Orderwide Outreach Week March 22-30.
- Hold a Founder’s Day reception for your parish and community.
- Conduct an open house and give out information on the Order.
- Show The Life and Legacy of Father McGivney to members, families and guests. This film documents the life of our Order’s founder.
- Prepare a council history display featuring old photos and written records.
- Publish and distribute a council history to all council members and post it on your website.
- Ask your local government to issue a proclamation declaring March 29 as Knights of Columbus Founder’s Day.
- Send press releases on your celebration to the local media. Invite them to cover the event.
- Hold a First Degree exemplification in honor of Father McGivney.
- Recognize your council’s founders — your charter members — by presenting them with Charter Member Certificates (#1456, E, F, S). These vertical certificates are 8.5 by 11 inches and can be purchased from the Supreme Council Supply Department for 25 cents each.

Founder’s Day activities are the perfect forum for asking eligible Catholic men to join the Knights of Columbus. Tie in your anniversary celebrations with membership activities.

For more ideas on celebrating Founder’s Day visit the “Council” section of kofc.org/service.

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.
Set the Pace by Becoming a Star Council

Star Councils set the pace for our Order. Only through growth can a council be successful as they strive to earn “Star Council Award” status. Recruiting and retaining members is the result of good active, inclusive council programs. As a fraternal leader you should continually review the council and its membership numbers. Did a council make its quota? Did the council conduct programs that included a large percentage of its membership? Is the council in tune with its chaplain? Does the council involve its field agent? How are your programs and activities doing? What do your charitable activity results tell you? The numbers are the report card! They are the results of what was achieved by council programs and activity. The numbers are not the goal — they only tell us how the council has been doing. The better the numbers, generally, the better the programs have connected the members of the council and united them in a common cause. The only way to improve the results is to improve the programs of the council; to include and connect to more members; and to be involved, visible and connected to parish life.

Focus on building a Star Council culture in your council. Programs and activities involve your council members, build enthusiasm and bolster your membership efforts. Programs are opportunities to invite new members into your council.

Now is the time to make sure your council has met all the requirements for the Star Council Award by qualifying for the Father McGivney, Founder’s and Columbian awards. The eligibility requirements for these awards are: conducting and reporting at least four major programs in each of the Service Program categories (using the Columbian Award Application found in the Council Report Forms booklet [#1436] or on the Order’s website by June 30), achieving new member quota, achieving new insurance member quota and hosting/participating in four First Degree exemplifications.

For more detailed information on achieving these awards refer to the “Surge ... with Service” Program Manual (#962) or the Grand Knight’s Handbook (#915). To ensure timely processing, all Form 100s must be received, processed and recorded at the Supreme Council before noon EST on June 30 to be counted toward 2013-14 fraternal year quotas. Also, all insurance policies must be issued and released by June 30 in order to count for the 2013-14 fraternal year quotas.

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.

Has your council conducted an outstanding activity 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 about the project) with the date, location and contact information to knightline@kofc.org or call 203-752-4264.

A family affected by 2012’s Superstorm Sandy were the first to receive winter coats through the Order’s Coats for Kids program care of St. Joseph Council 3402 in Keyport, N.J.

Over the Nov. 16-17 weekend, the citizens of Santa Clarita, Calif., showed their generosity by donating to Father Henry J. Banks Council 9740’s charity event that benefitted people with intellectual disabilities. Even in this time of economic struggle, an amazing $4,200 was collected by Knights stationed throughout the area. The Knights were assisted by kids from the community and local Boy Scout Troop 58. Proceeds from the event were donated to Carousel Ranch, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing developmental therapeutic and recreational programs for disabled and disadvantaged children through horses.

For 36 years, Msgr. Dillon Council 1014 of Huntington, Ind., has conducted a “Pitch-In” campaign that has risen over $234,000 to help Huntington County citizens who have a temporary financial need and who are currently not participating in a government-sponsored program. Each December, over 70 Knights work on “Pitch-In,” soliciting funds through a direct mail campaign and by manning contribution stations located at various intersections in the city.

In Massachusetts, Mt. Everett Council 513 took the time to honor some of their brothers by hosting a luncheon for 14 members who have each served 50 consecutive years or more with the Order. The event was held at the St. Peter’s Center, to which the Knights donated $50,000 earlier that day.
During this past fall, the Knights of St. Matthew Council 14360 (Norwalk, Conn.) collaborated with their community in several charitable initiatives. The Knights participated in a donation drive of goods for the soldiers of Homes for the Brave, an area facility that takes care of veterans who are trying to return to a civilian style of life after serving with the U.S. Armed Forces. Additionally, the council and the Catholic Daughters Court St. Matthew sponsored Thanksgiving dinner for the residents. Continuing a tradition of assistance that began in 2009, the council also painted the nursery at the area Malta House, which serves homeless families.

Reverend Robert F. Houlihan, S.J., Council 10937 of Highlands Ranch, Colo., organized a parish Thanksgiving basket drive. Supplies were bought with donations given by parishioners and Knights alike. Afterward, working together with 100 volunteers, in only 27 minutes the Knights were able to assemble enough baskets to provide Thanksgiving dinner to over 400 families.

The Knights of Saint Simon the Apostle Council 15437 in Indianapolis, Ind., found a creative way to reach out to the children of their parish this past holiday season. As part of their awareness efforts, they ran a contest in which children tried to guess the number of candy canes displayed in a large, glass case. The effort received a lot of attention from both children and parents, generating awareness of the Order among parishioners.

Father Joseph Linn Council 9140 of Big Lake, Minn., brought cheer to their community in the holiday season by holding a children’s Christmas party and providing 100 Thanksgiving baskets to the needy.

Four hundred and ninety children of Cobb County (Ga.) were able to have a visit from Santa this year thanks to St. Joseph Council 4599 and the local Saint Vincent de Paul Society. The Knights and SVDP volunteers provided each child with goodie bags, hotdogs, chips, cookies, drinks and a bag full of gifts.

Good Samaritan Council 14181 of Ellijay, Ga., conducted its annual Thanksgiving food drive again in 2013, providing each of 55 needy families with some 50 pounds of food and a traditional turkey.

The Knights of St. Johns Council 8190 in Lilung, Texas, brought care and comfort to the elderly of their community with the donation of three wheelchairs through the Knights of Columbus and the Global Wheelchair Mission.

In Winter Haven, Fla., the Knights of Dr. Lawrence J. O’Rourke Council 4726 sponsored the district round of the Florida Knights of Columbus Youth Spelling Bee Championship. Two Knights of Cypress Gardens Council 7091 also played a part by acting as judges for the competition.

Also this season, Council 7091 completed its “Spirit of Christmas” round of charitable giving for 2013 through the collection and distribution of $2,500 to the local Wounded Warriors and $300 each to Meals on Wheels, the Mission of Winter Haven, the Winter Haven offices of Catholic Charities of Central Florida, and Cornerstone Hospice.

Fewer went unfed in Harrah, Okla., after members of Father Norbert Lukes Council 4598 conducted a food drive and collected 4,616 pounds of food. In addition, a spaghetti dinner was hosted, raising $360.

Knights of Immaculate Conception Assembly 3183 in Arlington, Wash., participated in the assembly’s first-ever honor guard for their parish’s Mass and confirmation. They were also highly involved in the preparation as adult coordinators and catechists. In the meanwhile, Knights from Stillaguamish Council 8015 had been busy in the parish social hall, preparing a celebration meal.

Bathurst Council 1935 of New Brunswick demonstrated a collaborative effort between their members and parish as they worked with Msgr. Daniel Jodoin and Father Chamberlain to present the Columbian Award to their council and share information of their charitable work in front of Sunday Mass attendees.

Frank J. Durbin Fourth Degree Assembly hosted a Renewal of Obligations Ceremony and dinner in Winter Haven, Fla., providing opportunity for 30 local members to remember, strengthen and repeat the oaths they took as they advanced through the four stages of knighthood. The event was held at Cypress Gardens Council 7091’s meeting hall.

Residents of Pennsauken, N.J., can now visit St. Stephen Parish Community for a walk on a concrete path called “Prayer Pavers to Our Lady,” innovated and directed by Immaculate Conception Council 3512. The pathway features an engraving of the K of C emblem in addition to prayerful thoughts and memorials purchased by parishioners.
Knights Gear Online

Knights of Columbus apparel, accessories, books, religious and liturgical items, flags and a variety of other products are now available online for purchase. This webstore covers all Knights of Columbus-related gift and clothing needs. Brands featured include Adidas, Nike, Cutter & Buck, and Columbia. In addition, items can be personalized with council or assembly names. Products are also being added to the site on a regular basis. Visit knightsgear.com to see the full selection of items and to buy your Knights of Columbus-oriented products.

Parish Round Tables

Our Order’s goal is a Knights of Columbus presence in every parish. Our round table program can assist in accomplishing that. If your council serves more than one parish, consider establishing a round table in each. The round table works with the pastor to help meet the needs of that parish. See the Parish Round Table booklet (#2632) for details.

Semiannual Audit

Your council’s Semiannual Council Audit (#1295) should be completed as soon as possible after Dec. 31, 2013. Make sure the treasurer and financial secretary are on hand with their membership and financial records and that the trustees complete the audit as soon as possible. These forms are available at www.kofc.org/forms or in the Council Reports Forms booklet (#1436).

Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest — Keeping Kids Safe For Almost 10 Years

The Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest is a great way to show the dangers of substance abuse to the youth of the world. Kids from 8-14 can participate in one of two categories: Alcohol Abuse and Awareness or Drug Abuse and Awareness. Entries must be the original work of the artist (no collages, photos, etc.) and the contest is divided into two age groups: 8-11 and 12-14. Contestants work their way up from the council-level contests and can advance to become district, regional, state or international winners. The international winners may have their work appear in future contest materials, with artist credit going to the contestant. To order a kit for this worthwhile contest visit kofc.org/forms or call 203-752-4016.

Flag Day 2014

Flag Day 2014, celebrated in the United States on June 14, marks the 60th anniversary of the date that the words “under God” were added to the Pledge of Allegiance. To celebrate the key role that the Knights of Columbus played in this effort, the Supreme Master’s office is developing a program for Fourth Degree assemblies to conduct as part of their Flag Day ceremonies. Knights of Columbus councils and Columbian Squires circles are encouraged to take part in these observances as well. Additional information will be communicated in the coming weeks to state, district and local leaders through Knightline and the Order’s website (kofc.org), and by both electronic and traditional mail.

Free Throw Participation

If your council has participated in the Supreme Council International Free Throw Championship and you have not yet submitted a completed participation form (#FT-1), please do so at once.

Special Olympics Report Due

The deadline for councils to submit the Partnership Profile Report With Special Olympics (#4584) was Jan. 31. Forms will continue to be accepted throughout the month of February, so councils have a chance to get their reports in to help their jurisdiction receive a greater portion of the additional monies being made available from the Supreme Council for Special Olympics. Please ensure your council submits the form reporting all activities (volunteer hours given and dollars contributed) for calendar year 2013. The Supreme Council is also offering an incentive for councils that support Special Olympics. 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 (#SP-7). The council must provide at least 200 volunteer hours in support of state/local Special Olympics activities and raise — through council activities or those done in cooperation with their parish — a minimum of $2,000. Forms are available online at kofc.org/forms and can be submitted online, printed and faxed to 203-752-4108, or mailed to: Knights of Columbus, Department of Fraternal Services, 1 Columbus Plaza 06510.

Hold a Church Recruitment Drive in Honor of Our Founder

Action List for a Successful Church Drive

- Gain your pastor’s permission.
- Order your Church Drive Kit from Supreme.
- Send announcements — well in advance to allow time for them to be published — to newspapers, websites and parish bulletins.
- Make sure your council displays are attractive and tell your council’s story.
- Arrange for the pastor/chaplain or best council spokesman/membership director to make a brief announcement explaining the Order and encouraging men to complete and return the Prospect Cards.
- Have Knights in position at church exits to answer questions, collect Prospect Cards and assist interested prospects in completing Membership Documents (#100).
- Plan a social/informational session afterward in the parish hall or similar location.
- Have a First Degree Exemplification scheduled within two weeks of your Church Drive.
Protect Your Family With
Knights of Columbus Insurance

Your Shield of Strength

As the economy begins to shake off half a decade of turbulent times, the Knights of Columbus is celebrating 13 consecutive years of insurance business growth. We’ve weathered the storm when others haven’t, because it’s not our first. We’ve weathered the storm when others couldn’t, because we know how to navigate. We’ve weathered the storm when others made costly mistakes, because we don’t take on unnecessary risk.

Our strength is undeniable. More members than ever before see it and are using our shield to protect their families. Are you?

If you need life insurance — and chances are you do — why would you look anywhere else? Let us be your shield.

Did you know that the Knights of Columbus is one of the largest life insurers in North America? The Knights of Columbus has surpassed $92 billion of insurance in force and is a member of the Fortune 1000.

Did you know that the Knights of Columbus consistently earns the highest possible ratings for its ethical business practices and sound investment strategies? A.M. Best, a global leader in the rating and analysis of insurance companies, has given the Knights of Columbus their highest financial strength rating (A++, Superior) for 38 consecutive years. There is simply no more highly rated insurance company in North America than your Knights of Columbus.

Did you know that providing financial benefits for members was the reason that Venerable Father Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus? Our founding charter from 1882 makes it clear: The Knights of Columbus’ primary goal is to render financial aid to its members and the beneficiaries of members.

There might be quite a bit that you don’t know about Knights of Columbus Insurance and the fraternal and financial benefits of your membership. Join the hundreds of thousands of your brother Knights who use our shield as their protection. Contact your professionally trained insurance agent today.

Find him at kofc.org/findagent.

Put Your Loved Ones First

During the month of January, we spend a lot of time thinking about ourselves. What will our New Year’s resolutions be? How will we change our lives? What will 2014 bring for us?

But what about the ones you love? Is protecting them part of your plan for 2014? Sure, there’s a lot that you do to protect your loved ones. You make sure they’re safe. You make sure they’re taken care of. You do your best to make them happy. But what if you weren’t there for them? What if you couldn’t be?

Many are afraid to think about life insurance because they’re afraid of their mortality. But life insurance isn’t about dying, it’s about helping your family to live if and when something should happen to you.

Life insurance allows you to continue providing for your family after you’re gone by seeing to it that they have the money they need to be as safe and secure as they have always been. It can provide mortgage protection, income replacement, retirement income, final expenses and so much more.

And life insurance doesn’t need to be a gift that you’ll never see given. Your family can benefit from your policy while you’re still here to see them enjoy it.

So this Valentine’s Day, when you’re out buying that box of chocolates or flowers for your wife to express your continued love for her, make a point to schedule time with your professionally trained Knights of Columbus field agent to get your wife a special life-giving gift that will help you to protect her and your whole family for decades.

Find your agent today at kofc.org/findagent.

Find out more about our Knights of Columbus Insurance products by visiting kofc.org/insurance.
13 Consecutive Years of Growth

During 2013, the Knights of Columbus issued more life insurance than ever before in our history and surpassed $92 billion of life insurance in force.

Thank you for trusting us to protect your family.

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