Supreme Knight Reports on Record Growth in Charity and Membership

Order welcomes first South Korean council

The Knights of Columbus has set a new record in charitable giving, is continuing to experience membership growth, and has established a new council in South Korea, said the organization’s supreme knight in his annual report to the Knights’ 132nd Supreme Convention in Orlando.

“Florida is a fitting place for us to remember the great Catholic contribution to our hemisphere,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson as he opened his report. “Before the colonies of Jamestown and Plymouth, the first permanent European settlement was here in Florida, and it was Catholic.”

The supreme knight spoke to an audience of nearly 90 archbishops and bishops, in addition to 11 cardinals, scores of clergy and approximately 2,000 members of the Knights and their families from throughout North and Central America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Europe.

The theme of the annual convention — You Will All Be Brothers: Our Vocation to Fraternity — was drawn from the message of Pope Francis for the World Day of Peace, in which the Holy Father observed: “Without fraternity it is impossible to build a just society.”

“This sense of fraternity is at the foundation of our call,” said Anderson. “Our charitable activity is all the more effective because it is supported by our fraternal brotherhood.”

For the 14th consecutive year, Anderson reported, the Knights set a new record in charitable giving, with over $170 million and 70.5 million hours of voluntary service given during 2013. According to independent sector, the time donated by Knights to charity was worth more than $1.6 billion.

In addition, “During the fraternal year ending June 30, our membership grew for the 42nd consecutive year,” said Anderson. The Knights now has more than 1.8 million members.

Serving Veterans Together

Supreme knight announces partnership with Gary Sinise Foundation, welcomes actor as guest

Speaking as a special guest at the States Dinner of the Supreme Convention, actor Gary Sinise, who played Lt. Dan Taylor in the movie Forrest Gump, thanked the Knights of Columbus for its support of his foundation for wounded military personnel. He said, “You have shown that you can be a shining light of hope” for severely injured veterans.

During his Annual Report earlier in the day, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson announced that the Order provided $200,000 to the Gary Sinise Foundation to help build a computer-equipped “smart” home for U.S. Army Cpl. Kyle Hockenberry, who lost both legs and his left arm in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in Afghanistan. Located in Marietta, Ohio, the home is custom built to accommodate a wheelchair and the special challenges faced by Hockenberry and his wife, Ashley.

In an emotional and very personal talk, Sinise recalled growing up during the final years of the unpopular Vietnam War and not thinking much about the sacrifices of those who fought. Talking with family members who served in the military, however, inspired him to begin working with veterans in 1984. Ten years later, amid a successful acting career, Sinise jumped at the opportunity to play double amputee Vietnam vet “Lt. Dan” in the popular film Forrest Gump. He said that by playing the role with depth and integrity, he saw his work as another way to pay back veterans for their sacrifices.

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Sinise became even more determined to do something lasting for those who served their country, forming the Lt. Dan Band and entertaining troops with the USO. In 2011, he launched the Gary Sinise Foundation, which has developed numerous programs to help veterans who are injured physically or emotionally.

Sinise also shared the personal story of how he and his wife began attending Mass and eventually entered the Catholic Church. She was confirmed in 2000 and he was confirmed on Christmas Eve 2010.

“The Church has been a rock for me and my family,” Sinise said.
The Knights of Columbus has established a fund to assist those facing a horrific and violent persecution and possible extinction — particularly, Christians as well as other religious minorities — in Iraq and the surrounding regions. The Knights has pledged an initial $500,000 and will match an additional $500,000 in donations from the public.

“The unprovoked and systematic persecution and violent elimination of Middle East Christians, as well as other minority groups, especially in Iraq, has created an enormous humanitarian crisis,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “Pope Francis has asked the world for prayers and support for those affected by this terrible persecution, and we are asking our members and all people of good will to pray for those persecuted and to support efforts to assist them by donating to this fund.”

Supreme Knight Anderson added: “It has shocked the conscience of the world that people are systematically being purged from the region where their families have lived for millennia — simply for their faith. It is imperative that we stand in solidarity with them in defense of the freedom of conscience and provide them with whatever relief we can.”

Those seeking to assist with the relief efforts can donate to K of C Christian Refugee Relief by visiting kofc.org/Iraq or by sending checks or money orders to: K of C Christian Refugee Relief, Knights of Columbus Charities, PO Box 1966, New Haven, CT 06509-1966.

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 humanitarian assistance for those Christians — as well as other religious minorities — being persecuted or displaced in Iraq and the surrounding regions.

Other developments reported by the supreme knight:

- By percentage, the Knights grew the most in Poland, where membership increased by more than 23 percent. Notable growth is also being achieved in Ukraine and Lithuania.
- Texas membership grew by 2 percent last year, making it the only jurisdiction in North America to top 100,000 members.
- In October, the Knights will launch “Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive” to help families and parishes offer opportunities for daily prayer, catechesis, Scripture reading, charitable projects and social activities.
- The Knights’ New Evangelization Series includes new booklets on prayer, the Eucharist, the theology of the body, marriage and consecrated life.
- The Knights responded quickly and creatively to disasters in the Philippines and North America.
- The Knights added 15 college councils last year and now has 302 campus councils with 27,000 members.
- More Catholic families are protected by the Knights’ insurance program than ever before, with $8.2 billion in new insurance issued last year — another annual record.
- The new Young Adult Insurance Program provides annual renewable term insurance at competitive rates to Knights and their spouses ages 18-29.
- The Knights remains fully committed to both Church teaching and supporting Pope Francis and the bishops in defending religious freedom.
- The Knights has made great strides in bringing people together in appreciating the gift of life. The K of C Ultrasound Initiative has added 480 ultrasound machines to pregnancy resource centers in the United States, Canada and beyond, bringing together mothers and their unborn children in an important way. In addition, the K of C-Marist polling has continued to uncover an ever-growing consensus on life issues and a solid consensus in favor of greater abortion restrictions in the United States.

Growth, from Page 1

He also announced that the Knights has established St. Andrew Kim Taegon Council 16000, the first K of C council in South Korea.

“There are nearly 5.5 million Catholics in South Korea today. It is the fastest growing Catholic community in the world,” said Anderson. “I am sure that South Korea, like the Philippines, will play a significant role in the future of the Knights of Columbus.”

Grand Knight Checklist – September

Make sure your council has submitted these reports:

- Columbian Squires Officers and Counselors Report (#468) — 9/1
- Notice of Appointment of Round Table Coordinator (#2629) — 9/1

Remember that Oct. 10 is the date for the suspension of councils that have not paid the July assessments.

Review how your council will participate in the annual Coats for Kids and Food for Families initiatives.

Make sure your council is on the path to earning the Star Council Award.
At the annual Chaplains Meeting during the Supreme Convention, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson spoke about a new program for families that the Order is rolling out in October. Called “Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive,” the program seeks to develop strong Catholic families through a month-by-month guide with which councils can get families involved in prayer, faith formation, charitable activities and family gatherings.

At the Aug. 4 meeting, a newly developed booklet with information and monthly outlines was provided to the chaplains for their review and comments.

The supreme knight told the chaplains that they will be key in promoting “Building the Domestic Church” within state and local councils and assuring its effectiveness. The program will not only help prepare families for the 8th World Meeting of Families to be held in Philadelphia in September 2015, he explained, it will also provide ongoing formation for families in the years to come.

“The key to the success of this program will be you, the chaplains,” Anderson said, as he asked them for their input and ideas. “We are seeking to have this program become integrated into the life of the Order.”

He added, “One thing a council can do to make this program a success is to make sure that this booklet gets into the hands of every council family.”

The meeting, chaired by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori, was attended by 90 state and local council chaplains from throughout the Order. The supreme knight and the supreme chaplain thanked the bishops and priests for taking the time to attend the Supreme Convention and for their hard work during the year in their respective jurisdictions.

Archbishop Lori said that the family program is based on the pastoral teachings of St. John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. “It is our job to open up this rich body of wisdom and bring it down to the parish and council level, to make it accessible to the average family,” he said.

Also speaking at the meeting was Dominican Father Jon Kalisch, director of chaplains and spirituality for the Knights of Columbus.

Membership Seminar
Supreme Knight Anderson also addressed the hundreds of Knights assembled for the Membership Seminar, held at the same time.

Citing Pope Francis, he said just as people must be drawn to the Church by attraction, so Knights must be attractive, faith-filled and joyful witnesses in order to attract more members to the Order.

He said that Venerable Father Michael McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus, was one of the greatest evangelizers of the 19th century. The Order he started in the basement of St. Mary’s Church in New Haven, Conn., has grown into a worldwide organization with more than 1.8 million members.

Today’s Knights must carry on Father McGivney’s vision and mission as evangelizers in the world today in their own families, parishes and communities. If they live out the Order’s principles of charity, unity and fraternity, they will bring many more men and their families into the Order, he pointed out. More members will lead to greater charitable works as each council seeks to reach more and more people in need, he said.

Veterans, from Page 1
After the moving address, Supreme Knight Anderson received whole-hearted applause after asking the 2,000 Knights and their family members attending the States Dinner if the Order should continue its collaboration with the Gary Sinise Foundation.

In his keynote address to the annual States Dinner, Cardinal Gérard Cyprien Lacroix, archbishop of Québec and primate of Canada, focused on the convention’s theme, You Will All Be Brothers: Our Vocation to Fraternity.

“The world,” the cardinal said, “needs to see … love in action through our daily lives, in every family, neighborhood, parish, council and assembly.”

Cardinal Lacroix further exhorted Knights: “Do not underestimate the power of fraternity. Know that every act of fraternity can produce a lot of good fruits. Do not wait just to do great things, spectacular events that are noteworthy. Love as Jesus did — every moment of every day.”

Also speaking at the dinner were Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera, archbishop of Mexico City and primate of Mexico; Cardinal Orlando Quevedo, archbishop of Cotabato in the Philippines; and Archbishop Paul-André Durocher of Gatineau in Québec, president of the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops.

“Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive”
In October, we will launch “Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive” to help both our families and parishes grow in the faith.

This program will help Knights and their families prepare for the 8th World Meeting of Families to be held next year in Philadelphia, while also offering opportunities for daily prayer, catechesis, Scripture reading, charitable projects and social activities that can be done together as a family.

A mailing of a booklet with the details of this program (monthly Scripture readings, reflections, family activities, council volunteer programs and a suggested family movie night) will go out in early September. At that time, a website will also go live with additional information for the program and electronic versions of its materials.

As a leader, we ask that you take the time to read through this material when you receive it and work with your council and other interested parishioners in helping to initiate this worthwhile program.

Watch the upcoming issues of Knightline and Columbia as well as kofc.org for upcoming details on this program.
Knights of Columbus “Outreach Week”: Sept. 26-Oct. 5

In honor of Pope Francis — and St. Francis of Assisi who inspired him — the Supreme Council is encouraging all councils to conduct outreach programs between Friday, Sept. 26, and Sunday, Oct. 5. The third Orderwide “Outreach Week” gives every council the opportunity to show solidarity with our Holy Father by providing charitable 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 autumn 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 before the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Assess the needs in your community and conduct an outreach program that addresses one or more of those needs.

Volunteering With Special Olympics

As preparations are underway for the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles, of which the Order is a sponsor, Knights and councils are urged to increase their participation with local Special Olympics programs during the coming year.

Here are some ways to assist Special Olympics:

• Work with council and local fundraisers to help collect needed funds to support Special Olympics athletes and programs.
• Volunteer as a family for Special Olympics. The best way to start is to find the Special Olympics office nearest to you.
• Share your athletic expertise and passion for sports by getting involved as a coach or official. You can learn more by visiting specialolympics.org.
• If you or someone in your family have specialized training as a health care professional, Special Olympics can use your help in ensuring athletes remain healthy and safe.
• Along with these volunteer opportunities, Special Olympics also has unique opportunities for high school and college students.

For more information on how to volunteer with Special Olympics, visit specialolympics.org and click the “Get Involved” tab.

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. 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). 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.

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 or download a Coats for Kids order form at kofc.org/forms.

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 so your council will be counted among the Stars for the 2014-2015 fraternal year.
Concelebrated Mass Opens Convention

The 132nd Supreme Convention officially commenced Aug. 5 with an opening Mass celebrated by Bishop John G. Noonan of Orlando, a member of St. James Council 12402. Eight cardinals, 74 other archbishops and bishops, and 122 priests concelebrated the Mass, which included a Fourth Degree honor guard and some 2,000 Knights and family members in attendance.

In his homily, Bishop Noonan said that in the face of despair or when in doubt of God’s love, Pope Francis “is telling us not to view the world with fear but with the joy of the Gospel.” Although “fear will always be interwoven in our lives,” it must not overcome hope. He concluded, “The joy we experience in a relationship with Jesus Christ is more than simple enthusiasm; it is forged into our lives in our surrender and ultimate trust.”

Second St. Michael Award Conferred

During the final Business Session on Thursday, Aug. 7, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson conferred the St. Michael Award for exemplary service to the Order on Javier G. Nájera Cabrales, who has served as a special consultant to the supreme knight for Mexico. Nájera Cabrales joined the Order in 1975 and belongs to Purisima Concepcion Council 3903 and Purisima Concepcion Assembly 451, both in Celaya. He was state deputy of Mexico Central from 1998 to 2000 and supreme warden from 1999 to 2000, the same year he was elected to the Order’s Board of Directors. He served as a supreme director for three terms, till 2009. The St. Michael Award was inaugurated last year when it was given to Joseph P. Schultz, who served as the supreme knight’s special consultant for Poland. Schultz passed away this past May.

Two New Board Members Elected

In the Business Session of the annual convention, Supreme Convention delegates elected two new members to the Order’s Board of Directors to replace two retiring members. Elected to a three-year term starting Sept. 1 were Larry W. Kustra, past state deputy of Manitoba, Canada, and Tommy C. Harger, past state deputy of Virginia. They will hold the title of supreme director.

Retiring are Ronald White of Eldersburg, Md., and Meclea Casavant of Alberta, Canada.

In addition, Patrick E. Kelly was elected to the board to fill the unexpired term of former Supreme Knight Dennis A. Savoie, who retired last December. Kelly is vice president for public policy for the Knights of Columbus and executive director of the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C. He was appointed to the board last year following Savoie’s resignation.

Harger, age 66, was Virginia state deputy for one year, 2012-2013. He joined the Order in 1996 and is a member of Holy Spirit Council 11922 in Annandale and Msgr. Francis Bradican Assembly 2996 in Burke.

He served 23 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring in 1995 as a naval flight officer with the rank of commander. Currently, he works as a project manager for a company that supports Navy contracts.

He and his wife, Patricia, belong to Holy Spirit Parish in Annandale and have two grown daughters.

Larry W. Kustra, age 66, served as Manitoba state deputy from 2007-2009. A Knight since 1985, he belongs to St. Emile Council 8221 and Sir Knight Francis P. Kennedy Assembly 1937, both in Winnipeg.

He retired after 30 years from Red River College in Manitoba, where he was an academic dean and chairman of the Health and Applied Sciences Department.

Previously, he was an X-ray technologist at St. Boniface General Hospital.

He and his wife, Margaret, have three grown sons and are members of St. Emile parish in Winnipeg.

Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest

The Catholic Citizenship Essay 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.
2014 International Family of the Year Award:
James and Stefanie Bell Family of Cody, Wyoming

One of the most impressive traits of the members of this year’s International Family of the Year is their deep commitment to the culture of life. James and Stefanie Bell, married for 27 years, have 10 children, ranging in age from 2 to 24. Their names are: Ashlen, Hallie, Taylor, James, Kateri, Michaela, Cecilia, John and Felicity. Their son Matthias died at 3 days of age. All family members are active in St. Anthony of Padua Parish, their community and the Knights of Columbus.

In 2005, as an alternative to an event sponsored by a local family planning organization, the Bells held a “Horton Hears a Who” culture of life event, with the theme “A Person Is a Person, No Matter How Small.” This concept has caught on and become an annual event, attracting 400 attendees. James’ K of C unit, Bishop Maurice Burke Council 4031 in Cody, provides funding and logistical support for the event.

James, a Knight since 1995, was a key to his council’s efforts to form a monastery guild that created a greater awareness of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, a cloister dedicated to prayer that supports itself by selling Mystic Monk Coffee. He and his wife traveled to nine parishes last summer to make presentations on the guild’s work.

James and Stefanie led the campaign to raise funds to purchase an ultrasound machine for the Serenity Pregnancy Resource Center. In just three weeks, the campaign raised enough money to receive matching funds from the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative.

James has chaired many other activities for his council, including a highway cleanup and youth service committee. He also served as a Scout master, chaperoned Natural History Days at the local school system, was a youth basketball coach and sings in the parish’s choir.

Stefanie and another local mother started a group named “Mary’s Mom.” Their goal is to provide young mothers with moral support and help them build self-esteem. They begin meetings by praying the rosary and offering prayer petitions. They offer Bible study, marriage mentoring, and support through difficult pregnancies and family deaths. In addition, James and Stefanie are parish marriage mentors and have helped with youth pilgrimages to Rome.

In a letter endorsing the Bell family as the Wyoming State Council Family of the Year, State Chaplain Father Tom Ogg said: “Their joyful, gentle, and dare I say simple example is clearly an ideal Christian witness to family life. They embody our Pope Francis’ life of simplicity, humility and loving service.”

A Show of Excellence

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
Walter N. Streit, Alberta
261 New Members

### Star Council
Patrick J. McNamee
St. Simon the Apostle Council 15437, Indiana

Titus S. Gomez
Bedford Council 9404, Nova Scotia

Alvie H. Allison
Prince of Peace Council 11537, Alabama

Joseph M. George Jr.
St. Josephs of Lino Lakes Council 9905, Minnesota

### Star District
Raymond J. Forgette DD 99, California

Ralph J. Cavazos DD 167, Texas

Roger A. Sweet DD 101, Ontario

Nicholas J. Nastasi DD 29, North Carolina

### Insurance Awards

#### Company Leaders
General Agent Ben Baca III, California
250% of Quota

#### General Agent
Anthony “Tony” W. Swanson, Nebraska
239% of Quota

#### Field Agent in 2013:
Ronald “Joe” Sandova Jr., California
824% of Quota

Chad McAuliff, Oklahoma
640% of Quota

### Service Program Winners

#### Church Activities
Adoration Chapel
Council 5540, Coquitlam, British Columbia

Grand Knight Peter Elliott

#### Food Drive for Hungry School Children
Council 562, Roanoke, Virginia

Grand Knight Robert Ellis

#### Council Activities
Robocker Family Benefit & Home Renovation
Council 815, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Past Grand Knight Jon Eckrich

#### Community Activities
Wounded Warrior Softball Project
Council 5534, Marysville, Ohio

Past Grand Knight Randall Ralston

#### Culture of Life Activities
Free Ultrasound for Teenage Mom
Council 12405, San Mateo, Rizal, Luzon

Grand Knight Victorino C. Rovero Jr.
As Catholics, we keep death always in the front of our minds because it is the gateway to paradise, but also because we want to be sure that we are preparing accordingly and living just lives, conquering sin and living for God, so that we may live with Him after death.

But death is not always easy to think about. While we live with Christian hope, we know that our death also means sadness and trial for those we love. We know that we will leave a void, and, depending on the circumstances of our own death, we may even leave loose ends.

But by thinking about the unthinkable, and planning for the inevitable, we may be able to reduce those trials and tie up some of those loose ends.

That's why we are excited to introduce the Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook. The Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook is a no-cost tool available from your Knights of Columbus field agent.

The thirty-four page book is a comprehensive planning guide that will enable you to record personal information, identify personal wishes and supplement legal documents.

With the Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook, you can:
- List medical information
- Identify your long-term care instructions and wishes
- Identify the location of records, documents, accounts, passwords and other important concerns
- Identify charitable gifts
- Supplement your will with instructions and information on the distribution of your estate, as well as information on guardians, executors and the power of attorney
- Express your wishes for your funeral service, including desired readings, lectors, gift bearers, pall bearers, and fraternal or military organization involvement
- Prepare a Survivors’ Action Items and Concerns listing for the settlement of your estate and the execution of your last wishes
- Establish a list of people to notify
- Record information on life insurance policies and other benefits
- Express your wishes for an obituary
- Write a letter expressing your wishes to your pastor

The Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook may not be the most enjoyable workbook you have ever filled out, but it may be the most impactful.

In a fast-paced digital age like ours, there are so many more things to plan for and to record, and so much less time in which to do it. The Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook is an easy and effective way to gather your thoughts, details, data and wishes for the benefit of your loved ones. This great resource is another extension of our founding mission, set forth by Father Michael J. McGivney, of protecting Catholic families.

As pointed as it may seem, tempus fugit memento mori reminds us that we — with certainty — will die, but that we may very well not — with certainty — know when.

So why not spend a few minutes preparing for the inevitable? You’ll have the comfort of knowing that you did the right thing and the assurance that, when that time does come, you will have made a very difficult time just a little bit easier for the ones you love.

To get a complimentary copy of the Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook, contact your Knights of Columbus field agent to set up an appointment. You can find him by visiting kofc.org/findagent.

How to Conduct a Church Drive

It makes sense to look for new members in the place you’re most likely to find them — your parish. One efficient and proven way to do this is to hold a recruitment drive at your parish. Here are three steps to success for your event.

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, assist them with a Prospect Card (#921-A) if they’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 (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.
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