Nearly 200 college Knights participated in the annual College Council Conference in New Haven for a weekend of sharing stories, swapping leadership strategies and growing as a community of Catholic leaders.

Coming from 87 different campuses across North America, the attendees discussed membership and recruitment strategies, leadership development, communications and charitable works, while also exploring what it means to be Catholic gentlemen. They were accompanied by 18 chaplains who serve the spiritual needs of the college councils.

In his address to the college Knights, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson explained that members of the Order have an important role in a “culture of suspicion” that questions the relevance of Christianity and, especially, Catholicism. The mission of the Knights of Columbus in light of the new evangelization, he said, is for Knights to “demonstrate that it is possible to live this way (the way of the Gospel) and that living this way is better than any other way.”

“Profess what you believe, profess what you know, and live what you profess,” Supreme Knight Anderson told the college Knights. “That’s our heritage, our legacy, and that is our message.”

“Anyone who tells you that youth are the future of the Church doesn’t have it right,” he continued. “Youth are not the future of the Church, they are the present of the Church. Today you are Catholic laymen responsible for living the mission of the laity: to transform society through the living of the message of the Gospel.”

Following the message from the supreme knight, the conference’s keynote speaker, author Kevin Coyne, highlighted stories of past Knights whose actions demonstrated the key principles of the Order — charity, fraternity, unity and patriotism. Speaking of John Cardinal O’Hara of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Coyne reminded the college Knights: “He was once one of you — a young student at a Knights college council. I don’t know if there’s a Cardinal O’Hara among you, but I do know that there’s a piece of him in all of you — that you, too, stand for the principles that he stood for. That piece will only grow as you grow, and as you broaden the commitment you have already made as young Knights.”

Feast Day Celebration at Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington

Gathering at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C., for the first celebration of St. John Paul II’s feast day as a saint, hundreds of guests had the opportunity to attend celebrations and tour the new permanent exhibit. With 200 Catholic schoolchildren attending the Mass for Young People, the Shrine also opened its doors to members of the media for touring and interviews.

Special guests to the shrine included Archbishop Mieczysław Mokrzycki, archbishop of Lviv, Ukraine, who served as personal secretary to John Paul from 1996 to the pope’s death in 2005.

“What we witness today is a continuation of the pope’s calling,” the archbishop remarked. He noted that through the exhibit “we will leave to the future generations not only the witness of his life, but also our deep gratitude to the saint who renewed the face of this land, and also renewed us, the people shaping the face of this land, so that we can boldly stand on the side of Christ.”

Grand Knight Checklist – November

- Remember these upcoming dates:
  - Jan. 1 – Council Per Capita and Catholic Advertising Assessments levied by the Supreme Council.
  - Jan. 31 – Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) due.
  - Jan. 31 – Partnership with Special Olympics Profile (#4584), Free Throw Championship Participation Form (FT-1) and Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest Participation Form (#4001) due.
  - Review how your council will participate in the annual Coats for Kids and Food for Families initiatives.

- Finalize your plans on how your council will observe the Christmas season through sponsoring a Celebrate Christmas event and a “Keep Christ in Christmas” poster contest.

- 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.
‘The Power of This Place’

Knights of Columbus and Sisters of Life celebrate 10-year partnership at Villa Maria Guadalupe

On Oct. 21, the Knights of Columbus Supreme Officers led by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson joined the Sisters of Life and guests to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Villa Maria Guadalupe, the Order’s retreat center in Stamford, Conn. The celebration began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport and continued with lunch, providing time for fellowship and reflection on the partnership between the sisters and the Knights.

The nearly 100-year-old facility, which includes a chapel, refectory, convent and 50 guest rooms, previously served as a convent of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters. The Order purchased it in July 2004, and after local Knights spent countless hours renovating the interior and exterior, the building was renamed Villa Maria Guadalupe and dedicated in October 2004.

At the anniversary celebration, Mother Agnes Mary, the superior general of the Sisters of Life, recalled that John Cardinal O’Connor of New York, founder of the Sisters of Life, had dreamed of opening a pro-life retreat center. Speaking to the sisters in 1998, the cardinal told them that such a center would be “a place of peace, a place of tranquility, a place of light and refreshment, a place of love.”

Cardinal O’Connor died in 2000 and never saw this retreat center become a reality. However, upon receiving a phone call from Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori, then-bishop of Bridgeport, regarding the Order’s idea to open a retreat center, Mother Agnes Mary was delighted.

“This apostolate that had been the vision of the cardinal was coming to birth without our ever having done a thing, and I think without the participants knowing what they were doing,” she said.

Nine sisters currently reside at Villa Maria Guadalupe, serving approximately 1,600 retreatants each year, including men and women involved with the pro-life movement, pregnant women, single mothers, those wounded by abortion, priests and other religious, married couples, young adults and others.

College, from Page 1

For the first time at the College Conference banquet, councils received Star Council Awards for their exemplary service and achievement. In addition to the 19 college councils that attained Star Council status, three received the Double Star Award, and two were presented with the Triple Star Award. The evening’s marquee award, the Outstanding College Conference Award, was presented to The Catholic University of America Council 9542 in Washington, D.C. The council members put in hundreds of hours of service to others and offered public witness to their faith in a variety of projects, including: making improvements to council-member communications; maintaining membership degree teams; earning Double Star Award status by bringing in 48 new members and nine new insurance members; sponsoring a biweekly discernment group directed by Knights and their chaplain; conducting two “week of service” events during the school year; making more than 200 sandwiches for a soup kitchen; providing food deliveries to homeless people; visiting senior citizens in nursing homes; tutoring children at an afterschool program; hosting the annual college council football game held with the other college councils in its area; and helping to organize The National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception prior to the annual March for Life.

College Council Service Awards were also presented to the following councils:
University of Illinois Council 2782 in Champaign (Church Activity); Georgetown University Council 6375 in Washington, D.C. (Community Activity); Harvard University Council 14188 in Cambridge, Mass. (Council Activity); University of Houston Council 15105 in Houston, Texas (Family Activity); Louisiana State University Council 15064 in Baton Rouge (Youth Activity); and University of Notre Dame Council 1477 in Notre Dame, Ind. (Culture of Life Activity).

For more information about the 2014 College Conference, visit kofc.org.
Spread the Light of Christ

Knights and their families are invited to help spread the light of Christ by joining the Order's annual celebration. Councils are asked to light a Nativity scene and/or Christmas tree on Dec. 2 at 8 p.m., local time. This celebration is a wonderful way to kick off the season and celebrate with brother Knights, family and friends. A poster is available (#2757) from the Supreme Council Supply Department to help promote your council's event. For details, visit kofc.org/christmas.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

In a time when all things religious seem to be discouraged, it is refreshing to know that the Order promotes the “Keep Christ in Christmas” campaign to remind people that Christmas is a holy day celebrating the birth of Christ. To help deliver the “Keep Christ in Christmas” message, the Knights of Columbus offers these items and suggestions:

- Three posters — Check the List (#4554), Keep Christ in Christmas (#2760) and Remember, It’s Christmas (#4555) — are currently available from the Supreme Council Supply Department. Offer these posters to local Christian churches, parochial schools and religious education classes.
- Sponsor a “Keep Christ in Christmas” poster or essay contest.
- Send Christmas cards with a religious theme.
- Offer to help your parish prepare for Christmas through cleaning, making repairs or providing decorations or flowers.
- Contact area churches, local businesses and members of your council to display a Nativity scene on their properties this Christmas season.

Advent and Christmas Celebrations

With the goal of introducing the faith in America, Franciscan missionaries developed celebrations in honor of Advent and Christmas. Known as “the Posada,” these celebrations continue to be popular throughout Latin America and the southwestern United States even today.

No matter where you’re located, your council can take part in this celebration. For ideas on how to adapt this tradition to your own community, councils can turn to the booklet An Advent & Christmas Celebration (#9898). Through this booklet, the Order hopes to bring rich traditions to all Knights and their families through a sharing of cultural celebrations of the birth of our Savior.

This booklet provides all the information needed to conduct a Christmas celebration with your family and your Knights of Columbus council. Councils may wish to discuss with their pastor the possibility of making this a parish program. Copies of the booklet can be ordered by mailing or faxing a Requisition Form (#1) to the Supply Department.
How Your Council Can Achieve Star Council Status

Ensure that your council earns the highest recognition a Knights of Columbus council can earn — the Star Council Award.

• Submit the forms required to earn Star Council status (available online at kofc.org/forms):
  • Service Program Personnel Report (#365).
  • Columbian Award Application (#SP-7). Due by June 30, 2015.
  • Plan a series of charitable/service activities throughout the year, giving your council time to conduct the activities before the end of the fraternal year. Invite potential members to these service programs to show them firsthand what the Knights do. For further details regarding the service program portion of the Star Council Award, please see the Columbian Award Application (#SP-7).
  • Knights who recruit new members between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2014, may qualify to receive a “Knight for Charity” commemorative item. Think outside the box when looking for eligible men to join. Keep in mind family members, co-workers, fellow parishioners, RCIA candidates and members of other service/civic organizations who may be qualified for membership.
  • Remember that by the end of December your council should be halfway toward its Star Council Award net membership quota.

A council that achieves 50 percent of its quota will earn 5,000 VIP points. To ensure your council meets the membership quota part of the award, focus on the Order’s initiative for each council to recruit at least one member per month, and set a schedule of holding one First Degree exemplification each month.

• To help with recruitment efforts and ensure that your council earns the insurance quota portion of the Star Council award, utilize the expertise of your Knights of Columbus Insurance agent. In turn, assist your agent in holding a series of Fraternal Benefits Nights to help educate your members and their families about the Knights of Columbus Insurance products.

Food for Families Program and Incentives

Hunger knows no season. Even as many of us gather together over tables laden with food during the upcoming holidays, countless people go hungry. Fortunately, through our Food for Families program, the Knights of Columbus is in a position to help. Councils should focus their outreach on parish food pantries, community food banks and soup kitchens. Not only can councils help provide food for those in immediate need, but they should also have the goal of helping to keep food pantries well-stocked all year round.

Councils can also purchase — or secure through donations — enough food for a meal at a local soup kitchen or in the parish hall, personally preparing and serving the meal themselves.

As an incentive for councils to conduct these types of outreach programs, 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, then complete and submit the Food for Families Report Form. Also, outline the details of your council’s Food for Families program on your Columbian Award Application (SP-7) and report all monies raised and hours volunteered on the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728). All of these forms can be easily accessed at kofc.org/forms.

In order for your council to achieve full requirements in the Family Activities category for the Columbian Award, you must collect and donate a minimum of 1,000 pounds of food. In addition, council members must contribute a minimum of 100 volunteer-hours in the preparation, distribution and service of meals to those in need.

Questions regarding this program can be made to Jason Porrello (203-800-4937 or Jason.Porrello@kofc.org) or Quianna Richardson (203-752-4402 or quianna.richardson@kofc.org).

Special Olympics

On July 25, 2015, the Special Olympics World Games will be coming to Los Angeles. With an estimated 500,000 spectators in attendance, the games will draw 7,000 athletes from 177 countries around the world.

The athletes striving to qualify for the World Games will be working hard during the coming year. Every council is encouraged to work with your state or local Special Olympics organization to determine what is needed to help them succeed. They may need facilities in which to train, transportation to those training facilities, uniforms or equipment, and nutritious meals and snacks while they’re training.

Involvement with Special Olympics could help qualify your council for the Columbian Award. Should your council provide at least 200 volunteer hours in support of state/local Special Olympics activities and raise, through council or parish fundraising activities, a minimum of $2,000, it will fulfill all four of the Council Activity Requirements for the Columbian Award.

The Knights of Columbus has always had a close relationship with Special Olympics, and we are proud of our tradition of support. 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 specialolympics.org.
Since 2013, Connecticut Knights have set aside the day after Thanksgiving for charity. While many people were shopping on Black Friday, these brother Knights distributed new coats to over 2,000 children. Let us follow their witness to the power of charity and help our communities turn the most famous shopping day of the year into one of charity and giving.

For your council’s Black Friday volunteer projects, Knights should turn to pastors, schools and community organizations to determine the extent of the need in their area. Councils in warm weather climates may consider reaching out to food banks, holding a clothing drive or donating funds to purchase coats for children in colder climates.

If a need for coats is established, the council should determine how many coats they can afford to purchase, as well as how they will distribute the coats to the children.

Local councils can purchase high-quality, brand-new winter coats for boys and girls in a variety of colors, styles and sizes through the Supreme Council. Available in boxes of 12 for $220 in the U.S. and $245 for orders outside of the U.S., these coats can make all the difference to children in our communities. For additional information on how your council can participate, visit kofc.org/coats and download a Coats for Kids Order Form at kofc.org/forms, or visit knightsgear.com.

Get Ready for a Day of Volunteering

In the United States, the annual March for Life will be held in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, 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.

Every council is encouraged to subsidize marchers or organize a bus for Knights and others wishing to participate in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. Councils are also encouraged to consider those who cannot go to Washington by assisting with pro-life marches, walks, conferences or rallies nearer to home. For more information on the annual March for Life, visit MarchforLife.org.

Knights are encouraged to bring their council banners, wear apparel with the K of C emblem and march together as a council. If time allows, make an appointment with members of Congress to respectfully present the pro-life position on pending legislation regarding the culture of life and its effects on our religious freedom.

Following the March for Life, Knights throughout the Order are encouraged to participate in similar pro-life events, such as the 11th annual Walk for Life – West Coast, which will be held in San Francisco on Saturday, Jan. 24. Go to www.walkforlifewc.ca for more information.

Philippine Knights will have marches for life throughout their country during the month of March. More information is available at www.kofc.org.ph. In Canada, Knights can participate in the National March for Life in Ottawa on Thursday, May 14, or in provincial marches on or around that date. For more information, visit www.campaignlifecoalition.com/nationalmarchforlife.

Order Knights of Columbus Defend Life signs (#9341) 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. See the Supply Catalog (#1264) for a complete listing or visit http://www.kofc.org/un/en/prolife/programs/support_materials.html.

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 or students in a local, regional or national March for Life event and complete the Culture of Life section of the Columbian Award Application (Sp-7).

Building the Domestic Church Materials Available

This month’s focus of the Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive initiative can be found in the booklet (#10162) that was sent to all grand knights and other council officers of record. Copies of this booklet and other resources can be obtained by contacting the Supply Department at 203-752-4214 or by visiting kofc.org/familyfullyalive. Each issue of Columbia also contains the program’s materials for that month.
Active Councils Are Successful Councils

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 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. Please send a brief description (one or two sentences) of your upcoming event, with the date, location and contact information, to knightline@kofc.org, or call 203-752-4264.

Here is what's happening in some of our local councils.


In May, St. Scholastica Council 14485 in Lecanto, Fla., organized the Lenny Navickas Memorial Golf Tournament in honor of their recently deceased brother Knight. Over 120 golfers attended the tournament, raising $20,000 to honor the deceased Knight and help support his family. There are plans to make this an annual event.

St. John Paul II the Great Council 6688 of Yerington, Nev., was recently the recipient of a household full of items. The subsequent sale and auction of the furniture, appliances, tools and memorabilia raised funds for the council’s mission and community service programs. Approximately 300 hours were given in the preparation and continued success of this particular event. Knights of the council also helped to renovate the St. John the Baptist Mission’s storage room in Smith Valley. The Knights designed and produced working drawings, prepared the foundation, installed the underground utilities and painted the 480-square-foot combined storage room and covered BBQ structure. Knights contributed over 200 hours in labor and donated time, saving the small rural mission approximately $12,000 in related costs.

Five councils participated in the 2014 Annual Inter-Council Golf Tournament played this year on May 24 in Morrilton, Ark. Hosted by Msgr. Charles Kordsmeier Council 5209, the tournament raised $1,300 for the Arkansas Catholic Seminarians’ Fund. This fund assists seminarians in the Diocese of Little Rock. Participating councils also included Daniel Patrick Sullivan Council 10208 (Hot Springs), Hot Springs Council 6419, Pius XII Council 996 (Fort Smith), and the St. Vincent Hospital Hot Springs Knights.

Members of Father Edwin F. Kelley Council 5750 in Woodbridge, Va., Father Edward L. Richardson Assembly of Prince William County and several other assemblies cleaned the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. Knights traveled from northern Virginia to the nation’s capital to undertake the project, cleaning the memorial’s wall, walkway and statues.

St. Joseph Council 3402 of Keyport, N.J., came to the aid of a local daycare that was preparing for the graduation of its preschoolers. When told the hall they were planning to use would be unavailable, Grand Knight John DiGregorio offered the use of the council hall for the graduation celebration. On June 21, the council also offered its facilities for a fundraiser for one of its Second Sunday of the Month Breakfast volunteers, who was recovering from hip replacement surgery. The event was a success and raised almost $5,000 to help pay her bills.

Father Joseph Clovis Cadot Assembly of Kincardine, Ontario, organized a commemorative Mass and rededication of a cairn erected in the honor of their patron, Father Cadot, at the Cape Croker (Neyashiinigmiing) Ontario reserve. Father Cadot was referred to as Waiasseshkang, “one who brings light to the heart and soul,” by the local Chippewa tribe, over whose spiritual interest he watched between 1904 and 1931. Over 100 people were in attendance.

Saint Matthew Council 14360 in Norwalk, Conn., raised money through various council fundraisers to sponsor three trips to Bridgeport Bluefish baseball games for clients of Family & Children’s Agency (FCA). The games were utilized by students in their after-school program, teens in the behavioral health programs and youth in specialized foster care. The council has been partnering and sponsoring various events for the FCA since 2009. “Many of our clients do not have the opportunity or resources to go to ballgames during the summer, so these field trips are very meaningful for them,” said Robert F. Cashel, president and CEO of FCA.
Protect Your Family With Knights of Columbus Insurance

Caring for Our Own

Because the Knights of Columbus isn't just another insurance company, you are more to us than customers, current or potential, who are valued only for the products you purchase. Father McGivney founded the Knights 132 years ago so that we could help each other, and so we offer unique products and services out of concern for the well-being of both you and your family. That's the Knights of Columbus difference.

For starters, we extend to our members an Accidental Death benefit for free, just by virtue of their membership in the Knights of Columbus. The program — which is only available in insurance jurisdictions — provides a benefit of $1,000-$2,500 upon the accidental death of any member or his spouse (subject to certain age restrictions).

Since its launch in 1994, the program has provided more than $12.5 million in benefits.

In addition to the Accidental Death benefit, the Knights of Columbus and our agents offer a number of free services to our members and their families. Our agents are committed to providing survivor assistance to widows and families left behind after the loss of a loved one.

Knights of Columbus agents will stand by you and assist you with any of the following: contacting your attorney to sort out the will, making funeral arrangements, notifying and coordinating with the council, resolving any financial matters, filing any claims (including claims with companies other than the Knights of Columbus), and filing for survivor benefits or veteran’s benefits, if necessary.

Secondarily, we offer two additional free services to help Knights’ families. The first is Profiles Forecaster, a comprehensive and complimentary industry tool that helps you evaluate your family’s financial situation and determine what insurance protection may be needed. The second, the Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook, will help you record your final wishes and important information (including accounts, passwords, funeral arrangements, etc.) for your survivors. Both of these services are free through your Knights of Columbus agent.

To our insurance members* we offer two more programs: the Family Fraternal Benefit Program and the Orphan Fraternal Benefit Program. The Family Fraternal Benefit Program provides two distinct benefits. Firstly, it offers insurance eligibility to uninsurable children. Through the program, a member can purchase a $5,000 life insurance policy for an otherwise uninsurable child at standard rates before the child is 61 days old, or at a rated premium if before the child’s 18th birthday. At standard rates, a member can also purchase a $5,000 policy for a child between the ages of 3 and 18 years old who is mentally impaired.

The program also offers death benefit coverage to members who have lost an infant child less than 61 days after birth, or to those who have lost an unborn child in a stillbirth, after the 20th week. (The Order affirms that life begins at conception. In this instance, the benefit requires a certified death certificate for the stillborn child, hence the 20-week rule.)

The second fraternal benefit program available to insured members is the Orphan Fraternal Benefit Program. This extensive program also provides two benefits. The first is an $80 monthly benefit for each eligible orphan until their 19th birthday. The second is a scholarship program that grants eligible orphans up to $1,750 per year for a four-year period.

In a letter addressing the programs, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson noted that “these benefits augment the tradition of fraternity established by Father McGivney — namely, that the Order cares for its own. It expands upon a basic reason for which he founded the Order, ‘of rendering pecuniary aid to its members, their families, and beneficiaries of members and their families.’”

These programs are part of what makes us unique.

Get to know all of our fraternal benefits and the ways in which members of your council may benefit from them. Help educate them and connect them with their field agent, who can provide them with specific details. Because, at the end of the day, we’re brothers and we’re here to help.

To find your agent, visit kofc.org/findagent or call 1-800-345-5632.

*To be eligible for both the Family Fraternal Benefit Program and the Orphan Fraternal Benefit Program, the member must be in good standing and either he or his wife must be insured under a Knights of Columbus certificate requiring an annual premium of at least $150, or providing at least $5,000 in permanent life insurance coverage. Eligibility for the Orphan Fraternal Benefit Program is also contingent on the child being covered by an individual Knights of Columbus certificate.

Ordering Supplies

When ordering any of the items mentioned in this newsletter, either use the online request form or fax (800-266-6340) or mail a Requisition Form (#1) to the Knights of Columbus Supply Department at P.O. Box 1670, New Haven, CT 06507. Orders made online or those faxed in should not also be mailed, as it may result in a duplicate order.

Additionally, items are available at KnightsGear.com. The website covers all Knights of Columbus-related gift and clothing needs, as well as Knights of Columbus apparel, accessories, books, religious and liturgical items, flags and a variety of other products. To order Knights Gear products through your council’s account, please visit knofc.org. After signing into Officers Online, click on the Knights Gear logo. A Requisition Form (#1) is no longer needed to order supplies and gift items when ordering through this website.

K of C Free Throw Championship

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship has been providing a safe, positive environment for children of all faiths for more than 40 years. Local winners progress through district, regional and state level contests, with the highest-scoring state winner receiving our new International Championship Crystal Trophy.

To organize this event in your area, order the Free Throw Championship Kit (#FT-KIT). Containing enough material for 75 participants, the kit also includes promotional posters, entry forms and participation certificates.

The Free Throw Championship Kit (#FT-KIT) is available online at kofc.org/forms or can be ordered by calling 203-752-4016.
Find an agent at kofc.org or call 1-800-345-5632