Altar Dedicated at Saint John Paul II Shrine

Former Papal Secretary Helped Dedicate Altar at National Shrine

The main altar at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C., was dedicated Oct. 2 with the help of Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, personal secretary to Pope John Paul II during his historic nearly 27-year papacy.

Ordained to the priesthood by then-auxiliary Bishop Karol Wojtyla, Dziwisz served as Wojtyla’s secretary when he was named archbishop of Kraków. He was in Rome with Wojtyla during the papal election in 1978, afterward accompanying John Paul on numerous trips abroad. He physically supported him in the critical moments following the attempt on the pope’s life in 1981. Dziwisz continued to serve John Paul until the pope’s death in 2005, and has since been named the archbishop of Kraków, Poland.

The altar dedication marked Dziwisz’s first visit to the Knights of Columbus-sponsored shrine. There, he was joined by Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington, who served as principal celebrant and homilist of the dedication Mass, and Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, supreme chaplain of the Knights of Columbus. Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, Shrine Executive Director Patrick Kelly and other K of C officials also attended the event.

The Saint John Paul II National Shrine has recently undergone a major renovation, which included the creation of the new Redeemer of Man Church and a reliquary chapel, which contains the new altar. The work of noted Italian sculptor Edoardo Ferrari, the new altar includes sculptures of the apostles.

The altars in the shrine — which feature mosaics designed by Jesuit Father Marko Rupnik — contain first-class relics of saints connected to St. John Paul II and to the evangelization of the North American continent. For more information, please visit jp2shrine.org.

College Councils Conference Celebrates 50 Years

Nearly 200 Knights from more than 85 councils throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico gathered in New Haven, Conn., Oct 2-4, 2015, for the Knights of Columbus College Councils Conference. There, they continued a tradition of fraternity, discourse and networking that began more than 50 years ago in the halls of Boston College.

The first College Councils Conference, organized in the fall of 1965, brought together student representatives from 11 councils. During the two-day summit, college Knights discussed drafting a college councils handbook and passed a series of resolutions, one of which called for the conference to be an annual event sponsored by the Supreme Council.

Allow Me … to Cry With My People

“Allow me to express sadness for our archdiocese. … They have lost so many loved ones, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and cherished children. Allow me to worry about the faithful. … Insecurity is wearing them down, depressing them, adding more each day to their anxiety and sadness. Allow me to be distressed by the homes that are destroyed, churches rendered unusable, shuttered businesses and destroyed shops, an ancient city crushed by the destruction of a priceless architectural patrimony. Allow me to be bitter when comforting countless parents mortified by the deprivation that robs their children of the basic necessities needed to promote dignity and the ability to grow up healthy.”
Thanksgiving Charity

In 2013, Connecticut Knights began a tradition of distributing winter coats on the day after Thanksgiving.

In the years since, councils across the United States have joined the annual Coats for Kids distribution event. Last year alone, while many people were shopping on Black Friday, brother Knights from Minnesota, North Dakota, Arizona, Ohio and Washington, D.C., joined Connecticut Knights in distributing new coats to thousands of 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.

Before planning a Black Friday volunteer project, Knights should turn to pastors, schools and community organizations to determine the extent of the need in their area. If a need for coats is established, the council should then determine how many coats they can afford and how they will distribute them.

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 knightsgear.com.

For more information, please contact the Department of Fraternal Services at 203-752-4625. Questions about the program may be emailed to coatsforkids@kofc.org.

Strengthening the Domestic Church

Following in its tradition of strengthening family life, the Knights of Columbus continues to promote the Building the Domestic Church initiative. The newly revised booklet guides our members and their families to fully realize their vital mission in the Church through daily prayer, catechesis and Scripture reading, as well as through family projects.

A mailing of the revised Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive booklet (#10162) was sent to all grand knights and other council officers of record. To order additional copies of this booklet (available in quantities of 300, for the cost of shipping), send a completed Requisition Form (#1) to the Supply Department. Or, order through knightsgear.com. Additional resources, including an online copy of this booklet, are available at kofc.org/familyfullyalive.

Hunger Knows No Season

Even as our families and parishes begin to plan extravagant dinners for the upcoming holidays, countless people go hungry. Fortunately, through our Food for Families program, councils can easily help provide food for those in need during the holiday season and keep food pantries well-stocked all year round.

As an incentive for councils to conduct these types of outreach programs, the Supreme Council counts qualifying Food for Families programs as fulfilling all four of the Family Activities requirements for the Columbian Award. In order to qualify, councils must contribute a minimum of $500 or 1,000 pounds of food, then complete and submit the Food for Families Reimbursement Program Refund and Plaque Application (#10057). The details of each council’s Food for Families program must be outlined on the Columbian Award Application (SP-7), while all monies raised and hours volunteered must be noted on the annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728).

Councils might purchase or secure through donations enough food for a meal at a local soup kitchen or parish. Additionally, Knights can prepare and serve the meals as a show of solidarity with those in attendance.

In order for your council to fulfill the requirements of 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.

For questions regarding this program, please visit kofc.org/community.

Plan a Competition for Local Youth

Through the Knights of Columbus Free Throw championship, children of all faiths can enjoy positive and healthy competition with other youth in their local communities. Winners progress through district, regional and state level contests, with the highest-scoring state winner receiving the 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 includes promotional posters, entry forms and participation certificates.
Journey to the Inn

With the goal of introducing the faith in America, Franciscan missionaries developed celebrations in honor of Advent and Christmas. For ideas on how to adapt this tradition to your own community, councils can turn to Journey to the Inn: An Advent Celebration (#9898). Through this booklet, the Order hopes to bring a sharing of cultural celebrations of the birth of our Savior to all Knights and their families.

Councils may wish to discuss with their pastor the possibility of making this a parish program. Copies of the newly revised booklet — which provides all the information needed to conduct a Christmas celebration with your family and your Knights of Columbus council — can be ordered through the Supply Department.

Spread the Light of Christ

Knights and their families are invited to help spread the light of Christ by joining the Order’s annual tree-lighting celebration. Councils are asked to light a Nativity scene and/or Christmas tree on Dec. 1 at 8 p.m., local time. This celebration is a wonderful way to celebrate with brother Knights, family and friends. A poster (#2757) is available from the Supreme Council Supply Department to help promote your council’s event. For details, visit kofc.org.

Keep Christ in Christmas

Remind your community that Christmas is a holy day celebrating the birth of Christ through the Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas campaign. Your council might spread this message by sponsoring a Keep Christ in Christmas poster or essay contest; offering to help your parish prepare for Christmas by cleaning, making repairs or providing decorations or flowers; or arranging a Nativity scene on the property of local churches or businesses. Members might individually send Christmas cards with a religious theme.

To help your council further share the Keep Christ in Christmas message, support materials are currently available from the Supreme Council Supply Department. For more information, please visit kofc.org/christmas.

Conference, from Page 1

From 1966 until 1970, councils at Niagara University, the University of Notre Dame and the University of Dallas took turns hosting the conference. Since 1970, the Supreme Council has hosted the event in New Haven, Conn. The exception was in 2001, when the conference was canceled due to its proximity to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Each year the event has grown and evolved, yet it retains its original identity: a conference for college Knights, led by college Knights. For the 50th anniversary of the conference, the college Knights united under the theme “You Shall Be My Witnesses,” with the hope of learning how to best serve as global missionaries of the new evangelization in their service to the Church, Order and community.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson offered the young Knights a special message: When you — as young Catholics and as members of the Knights of Columbus — lead with charity, you will show others that Catholics are different and that Catholics have much to offer.

“There are two items that I hope you take away from tonight,” Supreme Knight Anderson said in his keynote address. “First, you are the brand of the Knights of Columbus on your college campus. And second, lead with charity.”

He ended his remarks by encouraging the young Knights to become engaged in the Order’s relief efforts for persecuted Catholics in the Middle East; to plan (if possible) a council pilgrimage to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C.; and to share and discuss the film A Man for All Seasons, which portrays St. Thomas More’s stance on political concerns and religious freedom.

“If you begin with charity, authenticity and joy of being a Christian, people will see the difference in how you act, and many will want to become a part of that,” he said.

Prior to the banquet, the conference attendees toured the Supreme Council headquarters and then joined the Supreme Officers for the celebration of Mass at St. Mary’s Church, the Order’s birthplace.

“Go forth boldly and have the courage to live a transformed life,” Dominican Father John Paul Walker, pastor of St. Mary’s, told the Knights. “Look for the needy and the outcast in your life, and reach out to them.”
Join thousands of peaceful demonstrators at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., Friday, Jan. 22. The event calls for overturning the U.S. Supreme Court’s infamous Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy. For more information on the annual March for Life, visit marchforlife.org.

Every council is encouraged to organize buses for Knights or others in their parish community who wish to participate in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. Councils are also encouraged to consider assisting with similar pro-life marches, walks, conferences or rallies, such as the 12th annual Walk for Life West Coast, which will be held in San Francisco on Saturday, Jan. 23. Go to walkforlifewc.com for more information.

At these events, display 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.

Knights of Columbus Defend Life signs (#9341) may be ordered by contacting William O’Brien at 203-752-4403 or william.obrien@kofc.org. Please include your name, address, telephone number and the exact number of signs you wish to order.

The Supreme Council continues to 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).
Top 10 Recruiting Practices

Members of St Louis Council 14730 in Pinecrest, Fla., who recruited 101 new members in the 2014-15 fraternal year, offered the following advice on creating successful recruiting practices:

1. Plan one-on-one personal recruiting at all parish functions.
   • Arrange that an information and welcome table be set up after Masses, community breakfasts and other events. Be sure that a member of your council is always present at the table to personally answer any questions from interested prospects.

2. Increase awareness of the Knights’ presence in the parish.
   • Display the council’s banner in the church entrance, wear K of C branded attire and advertise council and Orderwide events in church bulletins.

3. Explain what the Knights actually do.
   • Distribute an engaging brochure on local council activities.
   • Be positive when addressing any questions regarding the Order and local council.

4. Actively include and engage minority communities in your area through inviting programs.
   • Translate degrees for non-English speaking candidates and arrange service projects that do not require much dialogue.
   • Work with local ministries that serve local minorities and whose approach corresponds with the Knights’ understanding of charitable service.

5. Schedule frequent Admission Degree exemplifications.
   • Hold an exemplification at least once per month.

6. Organize a strong and informative Admissions Degree team.
   • Be positive and enthusiastic, meet frequently, address candidate questions and provide valuable information.

7. Have Membership Documents (#100) readily available.
   • Keep a supply in a location easily accessible by all council members.
   • Be sure that the forms are near at hand during all recruitment opportunities.

8. Discuss membership goals frequently.
   • Keep meetings organized and on point by having clear objectives.

9. Work closely with your local chaplain/pastor and encourage new Knights to get involved.
   • Personally engage the new Knights, asking them to invite their friends and family members into the Order.

10. Be active and meet the needs of everyone in the council and community.
    • Be sure there is something for everyone. Aim to have fun while promoting Father McGivney’s vision for the Catholic community.

Recruit a Member Today!

Each Knight who recruits at least one new member from now until Dec. 31 will be awarded with a medallion commemorating Pope Francis’ visit to the United States. Also, all recruiters will be awarded 2,000 VIP points for each new member they recruit during this period. Be advised: Recruiting former or inactive insurance members counts toward incentive awards.

Fraternal Survey: Submit Now

Councils, assemblies and circles should complete the 2015 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) and submit it to the Supreme Council headquarters by Jan. 31. Please send in your survey immediately. This form is available at kofc.org/forms or in the Council Reports Forms booklet (#1436).

Knights of Columbus Documentaries

An award winning Knights of Columbus-produced documentary that was aired earlier this year on major networks is now available for purchase on DVD.

*John Paul II in America: Uniting a Continent*, released to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the pope’s death on April 2, 2005, explores the indelible mark left on the Western Hemisphere by the papacy of John Paul II.

Narrated by actor Andy Garcia, the film features rare archival footage and analyses from leading Catholic figures, including Cardinal Seán O’Malley of Boston, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, John Paul II biographer George Weigel and former Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls. For more information about the film, visit kofc.org/jpiifilm.

A more recent Knights of Columbus-produced film, *Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message*, is being aired as part of ABC’s Visions & Values series from Oct. 11 to Dec. 10.

This Knights of Columbus-produced film is narrated by actor Jim Caviezel and portrays the remarkable history of the Marian image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Through modern reenactments, 3D animations, and interviews with leading theologians, historians and scientists, viewers are allowed an unprecedented glimpse into the intricacies of this centuries-old wonder.

For more information, visit guadalupethefilm.com or follow the hashtag #guadalupethefilm. To order copies of the documentaries, please visit knightsgear.com.
Active Councils Are Successful Councils

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 — we can pursue for possible promotion with local media and/or feature 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 203-752-4264.

Immaculate Conception Council 7184 and Blue Ridge Assembly, both in Hendersonville, N.C., held their 12th annual patriotic themed essay contest at Immaculata Catholic School. The students were asked to write about their responsibilities as citizens to their country, and likewise, what countries owe to their citizens.

Hot Springs (Ark.) Council 6419 organized its semi-annual rummage sale. Last year, the event raised more than $79,000 for the needy families in Garland County Arkansas, with council members and their families volunteering 12,874 hours to the successful event. With Daniel Patrick Sullivan Council 10208 and local Squires, the Knights also hosted their annual golf tournament. This year’s $10,500 in proceeds were donated to educational assistance.

Volunteers from Father Edwin F. Kelley Assembly in Woodbridge, Va., and several councils and additional assemblies, clean the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. About 30 Knights and their families and friends traveled from northern Virginia to undertake the project.

Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program

Why does the Knights of Columbus maintain a safe environment program?

As the world’s largest Catholic fraternal service organization, the Knights of Columbus has a responsibility to maintain its own safe environment program across all of the dioceses in which it is active around the world. This means that the Knights of Columbus has a duty to ensure compliance with its own safe environment program policies and procedures, including training and background check requirements.

The Knights of Columbus maintains the highest standards for the protection of young people across all of its programs and activities. The program helps assure families, dioceses and communities that the Knights of Columbus has done everything within its power to safeguard the young people served through its programs and activities.

Help Your Council Reach for the Stars

Ensure that your council earns the Star Council Award — the highest recognition a Knights of Columbus council can obtain — by remembering to submit the Service Program Personnel Report (#365), the annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) and the Columbian Award Application (#5F-7).
Across North America, the Knights of Columbus contracts nearly 1,500 brother Knights who serve as field agents and general agents. These men spend their days — and many of their evenings and weekends — serving brother Knights and their families, carrying on Father McGivney’s mission of providing financial protection to Catholic families.

As leaders in your councils, it’s important for you to understand who the agents are, what they do, how they can help you, and how you can help them. When agents and officers come together, they can be a powerful force for good.

Your agent is also a key player in helping your council earn the Star Council Award, which is awarded for excellence in the areas of membership, insurance promotion and service programs. To achieve Star Council status, a council must qualify for the Father McGivney, Founders’ and Columbian awards. Councils must also submit the Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) and the Service Program Personnel Report (#365).

To earn the Columbian Award, councils must conduct and report at least four major programs in each of the Service Program categories (Church, Community, Council, Family, Culture of Life and Youth). Alternatively, a council may conduct a “featured program” to fulfill all requirements for a particular category. After conducting your programs, you must complete and submit the Columbian Award Application (#SP-7), found in the Council Report Forms Booklet (#1436) or at kofc.org/forms.

The Father McGivney Award is presented to councils that achieve at least 100 percent of its goal in membership (a 7 percent increase of the council’s membership as of July 1, or a minimum of four net members). Double Star Councils, which achieve 200 percent of their membership quota, or Triple Star Councils, which achieve 300 percent of the quota, also qualify for the Father McGivney Award.

To earn the Founders’ Award, your council must achieve its insurance membership quota as of July 1. The quota for councils is a 2.5 percent net increase, which equates to a minimum of three new insurance members (Note: All membership and insurance transactions must be received, processed, recorded and released at the Supreme Council headquarters by June 30).

Do not wait until May or June to try and reach your insurance quota: Start now. Remember, your agent excels at promotion of our insurance products. He will be pleased to use the final months of the calendar year to end on a high note, while at the same time helping your council get off to a good start with the new fraternal year.

Our agents are first and foremost brother Knights. They are men, just like you, committed to the mission of the Knights of Columbus. Many have enjoyed long, active careers in councils and assemblies. Hundreds are past grand knights, and several are even former state officers and past state deputies.

They have chosen a career with the Knights of Columbus because they believe firmly in the good work that we continue to do for our communities, our Church and the world.

Our agents are dedicated to making sure they thoroughly understand all the details of life insurance so they can properly advise you and your family on your options. They all value continuing education, and many have invested their time and money to expand their expertise on life insurance, earning professional designations in the field.

Our agents work long hours and travel long distances — some more than 100 miles for an appointment! — to visit with members and their families.

We require our agents to contact each of the members assigned to them at least once a year. When they sit down with a family, they use their professional training and the powerful assessment tools we’ve provided to complete a free, comprehensive and custom analysis. Then, once the analysis is completed, they recommend a plan of coverage customized to meet the need.

The most important role for any life insurance agent, however, is the service they provide to the widows and orphans left behind. Our agents visit with grieving widows and family members to help them submit claims, arrange funeral services and take care of any final needs.

Our agents also help recruit members, start new councils, volunteer at council events, meet with priests and help represent the Knights alongside their fraternal brothers.

Your field agent is there to explain the fraternal benefits available through our insurance program. But remember, like all brother Knights, he’s also there to help with events and fundraisers. Make sure you invite him to participate in council meetings and ceremonials, so that no brother Knight goes unaware of the value of our insurance program. Include him in your plan for your membership drives and outreach events.

Although agents won’t be able to make all of the meetings and events, make sure you keep communication channels open.

As leaders in your council, you can help your agent by giving him a platform. Invite him to speak. Refer him to new members. Recommend him to brother Knights. Tell recruits about the value of our insurance program. Tell recruits about your agent. Together, you and your agent carry on Father McGivney’s mission of uniting Catholic men in their faith, serving Catholic communities and protecting the families of members.

If you don’t know your agent, get to know him. Find him at kofc.org/findagent. And, for more information on the Star Council Award, visit kofc.org/star.
Are you searching for a new career?
Are you looking to serve your community and the Church?

The Knights of Columbus is looking for brother Knights to help continue Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney’s mission of protecting Catholic families. Career opportunities are available throughout North America.

To find out more, visit kofc.org/careers or call 1-800-345-5632.