O of the many causes and charities sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Special Olympics is one that is particularly valued. Since the first Special Olympics Games were created in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Knights of Columbus members have been active and devoted supporters.

Since those initial games, the Knights of Columbus has continually affirmed its unique partnership with Special Olympics. In 2005, the Order pledged $1 million over four years to grow the program in North America, in addition to pledging increased volunteer support for state and local games. The Order also agreed to work with Special Olympics North America to expand its program to underserved countries.

Less than ten years later, in 2014, the Knights of Columbus formally announced a $1.4 million donation to cover the costs of athletes from the United States and Canada participating in this year’s Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles, July 25-Aug. 2.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson made the Los Angeles announcement during a news conference on July 14, the same day LA 2015 World Games President and CEO Patrick McClenahan named the Order a “Founding Champion of the World Games.”

“The Knights of Columbus were there with Special Olympics and its founder, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, from the very beginning,” said Supreme Knight Anderson. “Sargent Shriver, Eunice’s husband, was a friend and a proud member of the Knights of Columbus, and like him, we are here today to continue those efforts on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities. Our support exemplifies our commitment to the dignity of every person, our dedication to assisting with our neighbors’ needs whatever they may be, and our deep appreciation for the great work done by Special Olympics.”

The Knights of Columbus was one of the Honorary Chairs for the 2015 games, which featured 25 different athletic competitions in venues throughout the Los Angeles region. The opening ceremony took place in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the site of the 1932 and 1984 Olympic Games, attracting more than 500,000 spectators.

The Knights of Columbus believes that the games are nearly unparalleled in their ability to show the intrinsic worth and dignity of every single human being. These games don’t just build strength and character in the athletes and participants; through the force of their determination, the competitors share with all spectators and volunteers the intrinsic worth of every human person and the true sense of God’s love.

Grand Knight Checklist – August & September

- Remember these upcoming due dates:
  - 8/1 — Service Program Personnel Report (#365)
  - 8/15 — Semiannual Council Audit Report (#1295)
  - 9/1 — Columbian Squires Officers and Counselors Report (#468) and Notice of Appointment of Round Table Coordinator (#2629)
  - Confirm your council’s July assessments have been paid.
Failure to pay the assessments prior to Oct. 10 will result in suspension of the council. A suspended council may not be seated at their state convention, nor are its members eligible to be delegates to the Supreme Convention. Please note: The incentive credit for Star Councils will be listed on the Sept. 1 statement. Please wait for this statement to determine the amount due or credited.

- Plan how your council will participate in the International World Day of Prayer for Peace, Sept. 11, and the World Meeting of Families, Sept. 22-27.
- Plan your council’s participation in Orderwide Outreach Week, Sept. 27- Oct 4.
- 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.
What are the essential components of the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program?

The Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program consists of Praesidium's Armatus® child abuse awareness and prevention training, a youth leader screening process and robust reporting requirements.

The first component, Praesidium’s Armatus® child abuse awareness and prevention training, includes three required training modules for members serving in youth leader and officer roles: “Meet Sam,” which addresses the issue of sexual abuse awareness; “Duty to Report,” which explains legal reporting obligations; and “Know Your Policies,” which covers the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program policies and procedures. These training modules also include best practices for child abuse prevention and detection.

The Safe Environment Program’s youth leader screening process includes mandatory background checks for the state Squires chairman, state youth director, youth director, Columbian Squires chairman, Squires chief counselor and Squires committee counselor.

The third component is a robust reporting requirement. All members of the Knights of Columbus have an obligation to report any and all issues relating to youth protection and safe environments to local law enforcement if they have reasonable grounds to believe that there may be abuse taking place. Also, all members serving in board-designated youth leader or officer roles (state deputies, grand knights, faithful navigators, state Squires chairmen, state youth directors, youth directors, Columbian Squires chairmen, Squires chief counselors and Squires committee counselors) are considered mandatory reporters under the policies and procedures of the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program.

The policies and procedures of the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program advise that, depending on particular facts and circumstances of a given case, members in designated youth leadership positions notify local pastors and diocesan safe environment directors of potential or actual misconduct. Mandatory reporters are obligated under the policies and procedures of the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program to report suspected abuse to law enforcement if they have a reasonable basis to believe that abuse is taking place.

The Fifth Sunday Rosary Program

The rosary offers a great opportunity for Knights of Columbus members and their families to strengthen their faith. Community devotions may also give parish families a regular opportunity to experience the faith and fellowship of the Order.

Beginning Aug. 30, 2015, councils are encouraged to come together and promote devotion to Mary by leading a community rosary on every fifth Sunday that falls within a month. By conducting this program on each of the fifth Sundays during the 2015-2016 fraternal year, your council will qualify as fulfilling all four Church Activity requirements of the Columbian Award.

To help your council conduct this new Church Activity, consider the following steps:

1. Discuss the program with your pastor and council chaplain. Should other parish or council activities present a scheduling conflict, it would be suitable to hold the rosary prayer service on the closest available day to the fifth Sunday.
2. Order rosary program kits (#SR-KIT) from the Supreme Council. These kits contain a supply of rosary rings, promotional materials and prayer cards on how to pray the rosary.
3. Announce the dates and location of the service to the community through the parish bulletin, a pulpit announcement or perhaps the local paper.

For more information regarding the Fifth Sunday Rosary or to order a program kit, please contact Jason Porrello (203-752-4571 or Jason.Porrello@kofc.org) and visit kofc.org/forms.

Volunteer at the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is expected to attract well in excess of a million people to the city of brotherly love when Archbishop Charles J. Chaput welcomes Pope Francis to the United States for the first time following the World Meeting of Families (Sept. 22-27, 2015). The archdiocese particularly welcomes families to the events, and encourages those who are able to volunteer in assisting the many visitors.

In the Order’s ongoing spirit of service, Knights and their families are particularly invited to volunteer during the course of the activities. Opportunities are available for a variety of tasks and events; in particular, multilingual volunteers are requested to assist with translation. All volunteers must be 18 or older and reside in the United States. Applications are available via the World Meeting of Families website, worldmeeting2015.org.

A Vatican-sponsored international gathering and visit from the Holy Father are not only rare, but also a blessing for the United States. Consider the significance of these occasions and the unique opportunities they offer you and your council.

Please volunteer today.
WINNERS OF THE 2014-2015 STAR COUNCIL, COLUMBIA, FATHER MCGIVNEY AND FOUNDER'S AWARDS

Shining Stars
Council Awards Announced

Winners of the 2014-15 Star Council, Columbian, Father McGivney, and Founders' awards have been announced by the Supreme Council office. Star Council winners numbered 2,163. As of June 30, 2015, Luzon led with 286 councils, Visayas with 139 councils and Texas with 125 councils. The totals for the other awards were: 4,989 Columbian Award winners; 3,509 Father McGivney Award winners; and 2,878 Founders' Award winners.

Awards are now being engraved and will be forwarded to the district deputies of record. Awards will also be sent to the state deputy, if requested. If a council wins only a Founders' Award, it will be sent to the general agent of record.

A complete listing of award winners is listed below. The listing is in alphabetical order by jurisdiction and contains the council number followed by one or more of the following letters: C (Columbian Award), M (McGivney Award), F (Founders' Award), and S (Star Councils, including Double Star and Triple Star).

Questions concerning any of these awards should be forwarded to the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Services. Look for a more detailed listing of Star Council winners, including the percentage of membership quota earned by each Star Council, in an upcoming issue of Columbiana magazine.
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Fraternity and Insurance: A Life-Changing Combination

One hundred and thirty three years ago, Father Michael J. McGivney worked to protect Catholic families.

Now, in 2015, Father McGivney’s mission has taken on several different shapes and services, including charitable works, evangelical missions or catechetical programs, and, of course, our insurance program.

Together, these things form the core of the Knights of Columbus. Guided always by our fraternal principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, we are most effective when the different aspects of our organization operate in conjunction with each other. When the Knights who lead our programs work together, the results can be truly life-changing — not just locally, but globally.

This summer, as we embark on a new fraternal year, spend time with your field agent and general agent to coordinate your activities.

Your Knights of Columbus Insurance agents are tremendous resources for you and your council. For these men, the Knights of Columbus is more than just a career, it’s a vocation, and they are deeply committed to furthering Father McGivney’s mission in all its facets.

Ask for their help with membership drives during Sunday Masses. Seek out their assistance with various committees and fundraisers. Lean on them to help supply manpower for hands-on charitable events. Open the door and welcome them. Invite them to full participation in your council life.

Remember, these men work tirelessly to serve the members in their area. Although they may not always be able to take part in each and every initiative, they want to be involved with their councils as much as possible.

As a professionally trained Knights of Columbus field agent, your agent brings tremendous value to your council and to your members. He also brings with him a full product portfolio of high quality insurance products. He holds the key to the greatest fraternal benefit of all — the insurance program.

The men in your council will no doubt be at various stages of life, with varying needs and varying means, but surely most of them will at some point look for life insurance protection, retirement products, disability income or long-term care insurance. When they do, why would they look anywhere besides their very own Knights of Columbus?

But the truth is, many of your council’s members probably don’t think about our insurance business. They may have met with a field agent once or twice during their time as Knights, but they probably don’t know about our current full line of products. They probably don’t know about our $94 billion of life insurance in force. They probably don’t know about our 40 consecutive years of the highest possible rating for financial strength, A++ (Superior), from A.M. Best. They probably don’t know about our being named a “World’s Most Ethical Company” in 2014 and 2015. They may not even know of Father McGivney’s vision of financial protection for Catholic families.

But they should.

When your members are in the market for insurance products, they have a choice. They can purchase from one of more than 1,500 life insurance companies in North America, who will do whatever they choose with their premium dollars and invest in whatever offers them the best returns. Or, they can purchase from their Knights of Columbus, who they know will invest ethically and donate generously. It’s what we call “The Catholic Difference.”

What would it mean to your members to know that the money they spend protecting their family, preserving their retirement, guarding against their disability or providing for their long-term care goes to an organization that supports the Church? Or that has donated more than $1.5 billion to charity in the past decade? What would it mean to your members to know that their insurance purchase will someday not only change the lives of their family, but maybe even the lives of families halfway across the world?

Invite your field agent in to talk about the Catholic difference. Set-up a fraternal benefits night where he can address the council on our slate of products and the benefits that they bring to Catholic families. Welcome him as a Knight. He, too, is deeply committed — not only to protecting Catholic families financially, but also to standing up for the marginalized, standing up for the poor, and standing with the Church.

New years are times for new resolutions. As you embark on the new 2015 fraternal year, resolve to incorporate your field agent into your council life, so that your members have the opportunity to profit from our greatest fraternal benefit.

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

Champion, from Page 1

Since they first began supporting the games in 1968, the Knights of Columbus has raised and donated more than $600 million to programs for people with intellectual and physical disabilities — with the Special Olympics donations ranking among the larger gifts the Order makes each year.

Although Special Olympics has grown in recent years, it still needs our continued support. We encourage chapters and parishes around the world to organize fundraisers, events and donation drives that will continue to benefit this magnificent organization. Special Olympics is too wonderful to overlook, and the Knights of Columbus is committed to giving every child and adult with disabilities the opportunity to experience joy and find confidence through the transformative power of the World Games.

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.
A brother Knight can choose no better company for the protection of his family. In choosing Knights of Columbus Insurance, he is making a commitment to his family’s future; he is making a commitment to ethical investment and corporate governance; and he is making a commitment that benefits his Church and community.

— Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson

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