Pope Francis received Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore in a private audience at the Vatican on Dec. 17. It was the fourth such audience granted by Pope Francis to the supreme knight at the Apostolic Palace.

During the course of the meeting, the supreme knight and Archbishop Lori spoke with the Holy Father about the Order’s many activities, particularly the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund.

Through the efforts of the Christian Refugee Relief Fund, the Order has distributed more than $5 million to support Christians in the Middle East. In addition to this financial support, the Knights of Columbus has organized a major public awareness campaign about the situation faced by Christians in the Middle East.

During the visit, the supreme knight presented the Holy Father with a contribution of $1.6 million from the Vicarius Christi Fund, offered on behalf of the 1.9 million members of the Knights of Columbus. The Vicarius Christi Fund has generated $56,015,000 for the pope’s personal charities and causes since its establishment in 1981.

Last month, in testimony before the House’s Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson provided four policy recommendations to address the ongoing crisis of Christians and other religious minorities in Syria and Iraq:

1. That Congress adopt House Concurrent Resolution 75, which names and declare the ongoing “genocide” against Christians and other vulnerable minorities in Iraq and Syria.

2. That the U.S. State Department publicly acknowledge that genocide is taking place against the Christian communities in Iraq and Syria, including them in its reportedly impending statement on genocide that, according to reports, refers only to Nineveh’s Yazidi community.

3. That the United States insist on proper security inside refugee camps and identify ways to ensure that Christians and other vulnerable minorities from Iraq and Syria are not subject to violence inside Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) facilities; this includes the possibility of providing separate facilities for minorities and hiring professional staff that would include members of the minority communities.

Grand Knight Checklist – January & February

- Remember these upcoming dates:
  - Jan. 22 — The 43rd annual March for Life
  - Jan. 23 — The 12th annual Walk for Life West Coast
  - Jan. 31 — Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics (#4583), Free Throw Championship Participation Form (#FT-1), Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Content Participation Form (#4001) and Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) all due.

- Plan for your participation in Founder’s Day (March 29) and the Orderwide Outreach Week (March 28-April 3).

- Make sure your council is on the path to earning the Star Council Award.
Opening Mass for Jubilee of Mercy
Broadcast in Ultra HD

The opening Mass for the Jubilee of Mercy and the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica, held Dec. 8, was seen around the world in unprecedented clarity thanks to an overhaul of the video equipment used by Vatican Television Centre (CTV). This created an “immersive experience” which captured, delivered and displayed the images in a way that is as close to the performance of the human eye as possible.

The Knights of Columbus donated the original broadcasting truck, and in October it provided a major $250,000 sponsorship to assist in the upgrade that allowed for 4K/Ultra HD broadcasting.

In correspondence to Msgr. Dario Viganò, prefect secretariat for Communications and director of CTV, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said, “We welcome the opportunity to build upon that partnership with you and CTV in solidarity with Pope Francis, to ensure that the Holy Father’s joyful proclamation of the Gospel reaches around the globe.”

The Knights of Columbus also underwrote the restoration of the Holy Door in preparation for its last opening during the Jubilee Year 2000. A replica of the door is a part of the Saint John Paul II National Shrine’s permanent exhibit, at which a “Vigil of Mercy” was held Dec. 7.

Knights of Columbus Distribute Coats on Black Friday

The day after Thanksgiving often means a rush into bargain shopping for the holidays. Instead of fighting for holiday deals, however, Knights throughout the nation used the day to extend goodwill to those who might otherwise be forgotten: On Black Friday, Nov. 27, thousands of children received a free and much-needed gift as councils distributed new winter coats to families in need.

“While society pushes us to buy things on Black Friday, the Knights of Columbus wants to remember those who don’t have basic necessities,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “Our members are making sure that children have something essential — a coat — to help them stay warm during winter.”

In Maryland, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori was among the Knights who helped distribute 1,000 coats to children from Catholic Charities Head Start of Baltimore City and schools in the Baltimore area.

Members of Cardinal Glennon Council 4613 in Kansas City, Mo., held a distribution at the local Holy Cross Catholic School, while Crescent City (Calif.) Council 3786 donated coats to a local radio station, which distributed the coats to local families. The council used radio announcements and Facebook postings to reach out to other local community groups, challenging them to match the Knights’ donation.

In Alabama, Tuscaloosa Council 4083 worked with Nick’s Kids Foundation, an organization that helps provide college tuition assistance. Together, they hosted a Coats for Kids distribution for local children with disabilities.

Earlier in November, Minnesota Knights donated coats to the police departments of Osseo, Maple Grove, Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center. The donation was funded by Osseo-Maple Council 9139, St. Joseph the Worker Council 13359, Father Donald Schumaker Council 6772 and St. Gerard Council 13001, with each council contributing $500. On Black Friday, the councils again worked together to distribute coats to both children and adults, with the purchase of the coats funded by various council fundraisers and activities.

Elsewhere in the country, Knights found additional ways to fulfill the needs of their communities. In Highlands Ranch, Colo., Reverend Robert F. Houlihan Council 10937 assembled and delivered 500 Thanksgiving Baskets to families in need, and in Clinton Township, Mich., St. Paul of Tarsus Council 11689 assisted the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter.

The week also saw early efforts to Keep Christ in Christmas, with St. Philip the Apostle Council 11671 displaying a large “Keep Christ in Christmas” sign and offering smaller versions for lawns and windows.

For information on how your council can participate in similar coat distributions, please visit kofc.org. If you have questions about the Coats for Kids program, email coatsforkids@kofc.org or contact the Department of Fraternal Services at 203-752-4625.
March in the Defense of Life

The 43rd annual March for Life will be held in Washington, D.C., on Friday, Jan. 22, to call for the overturn of the infamous Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the United States.

Every U.S. council is encouraged to subsidize marchers or to organize a bus for Knights and others wishing to participate in this event. For details on the 2016 March for Life or the March for Life Conference, featuring keynote speaker Sue Ellen Browder, visit marchforlife.org. College Knights should also plan to attend the 17th annual Cardinal O’Connor Conference on Life, co-sponsored by Georgetown University Council 6375, Saturday, Jan. 23. The theme of the conference will be “Whose Choice?” Visit oconnorconference.com for more information.

Knights who cannot attend the events in Washington are encouraged to participate in similar pro-life events held that same weekend, such as the 11th annual Walk for Life West Coast held in San Francisco, Saturday, Jan. 23. For more information, visit walkforlifewc.com.

In March, Knights from the Philippines will be hosting rallies for life throughout their country, while Canadian Knights will participate in various events in May. For details, visit kofc.org.ph and campaignlifecoalition.com.

After participating in any of these pro-life events, be sure to report your council’s activities on the Culture of Life section of the Columbian Award Application (#SP-7), as the event may help your council fulfill all four Culture of Life Activities requirements of 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.

40 Cans for Lent

Help fight hunger by planning a 40 Cans for Lent drive, asking members of the community to contribute one can of food for each of the days of Lent.

As an added incentive to conduct this and other Food for Families programs, the Supreme Council offers a rebate of $100 for every $500 or 1,000 pounds of food that a council collects and donates. Simply complete the Food for Families Reimbursement Program Report Form (#10057).

5th Sunday Prayer Service

Share the faith and fellowship that comes with being a member of the Knights of Columbus by inviting brother Knights, their families and local parishes to a 5th Sunday Rosary Program on Jan. 31. To order the 5th Sunday Rosary Kit (#SR-KIT), visit kofc.org/5thsunday.

Be sure to report these events on the Columbian Award Application (#SP-7) and the 5th Sunday Rosary Program Report Form (#10243).

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4. That the U.S. government take immediate action to implement its stated policy of “prioritizing” the resettlement of vulnerable minorities, including Christians. In addition, it is recommended that the U.S. government end its sole reliance on the UNHCR for refugee referrals and engage private contractors to identify, document and refer Christian, Yazidi and other vulnerable minority refugees who are in need of resettlement.

The Knights of Columbus has donated more than $5 million to aid these Christians and other religious minority refugees in the Middle East. Do your part in raising even more support through the Solidarity Cross Program. To participate, please contact the Supply Department at 203-752-4214 or supply@kofc.org. When sending your council’s check to the fund, please make it payable to “Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.” and write “Persecuted Christians Solidarity Crosses” on the memo line.

Thank you for helping the Knights of Columbus to stand in solidarity with our persecuted brothers and sisters through your participation in this program, continued prayers and financial support.

Reminder: Semiannual Audit

Your council’s Semiannual Council Audit Report (#1295) should be completed as soon as possible after Dec. 31. The form is available at kofc.org/forms or in the Council Reports Forms Booklet (#1436).
**JANUARY**

- Haitian amputee athletes attended a meeting at the Vatican, Jan. 10, in a visit sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.
- Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and his wife, Dorian, joined California Knights at the OneLife LA celebration on Jan.17.
- The Guadium et Spes Award, the Order’s highest honor, was presented to Cardinal Francis George, the 11th recipient of the award since its establishment in 1992.

**FEBRUARY**

- The Knights of Columbus provided $400,000 to the Ukrainian-rite and Latin-rite Catholic communities of Ukraine. The funds were used for humanitarian relief, including projects that fed and aided homeless children and refugees living on the streets of the capital city of Kyiv.

**MARCH**

- In March, the Knights of Columbus was recognized as a 2015 World’s Most Ethical Company® by the Ethisphere Institute.
- The Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors announced the creation of four faith-based investment solutions specifically designed to meet the needs of Catholic institutions.

**JULY**

- The Special Olympics World Games were held in in July, with 7,000 athletes from more than 177 countries traveling to Los Angeles for the event. The Knights of Columbus donated $1.4 million to fund the qualified athletes from the U.S. and Canada.
- In July, the Knights of Columbus began the Christians at Risk national campaign, which raises funds and fosters awareness of the persecution of religious minorities in the Middle East.

**AUGUST**

- The Order held its 133rd Supreme Convention in Philadelphia, Aug. 4-6. Cardinals, archbishops, bishops and other members of the clergy joined approximately 2,000 members of the Order and their families at the event.
- The Knights of Columbus marked the 125th anniversary of the death of Father Michael McGivney with a special Mass at St. Mary’s Church in New Haven, Conn.
- In August, the Knights of Columbus Insurance program earned the highest financial strength rating, A++ (Superior), from A.M. Best rating agency for the 40th consecutive year.

**SEPTEMBER**

- The Order funded the delivery of one month’s supply of food to more than 13,500 Iraqi Christians as part of its multimillion-dollar initiative to aid displaced Christian families and other persecuted religious communities in the Middle East.
- In September, the Supreme Council and countless Knights served as volunteers at many events during Pope Francis’ first apostolic visit to the United States and the World Meeting of Families, both held in Philadelphia.
- Katreena, a 15 year-old Iraqi girl, received medical treatment at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. The Order organized her airlift from a displaced persons camp in Erbil, Kurdistan, and provided funding for her care.

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**Keep a Star Council Mindset**

Our Star Council Award winners are the leaders of our Order in the areas of membership, insurance promotion and service programs. They are councils that have adopted the mindset to be successful in membership recruitment, insurance promotion and charitable works.

To be eligible to earn the Star Council Award, a council must qualify for the Father McGivney, Founders’ and Columbian awards. To qualify for these awards, your council must also submit the Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) and the Service Program Personnel Report (#365).

To earn the Columbian Award, your council must complete and submit the Columbian Award Application (#SP7), which may be found in the Council Report Forms Booklet (#1436) or at kofc.org/forms. Remember, you can track your progress toward the award by using the Star Council Checklist Poster (#5104).

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). Or, as an alternative, councils may conduct a single featured program in each category, thereby fulfilling all requirements for that category. The featured programs and their respective categories include the following: Refund Support Vocations Program – RSVP (Church), Habitat for Humanity or Global Wheelchair Mission (Community), Special Olympics (Council), Food for Families (Family), Ultrasound Initiative or a March for Life event (Culture of Life) and Coats for Kids (Youth).

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OCTOBER
• Nearly 200 college Knights from 87 different campuses across North America participated in the 50th annual College Council Conference, Oct. 2-4, in New Haven, Conn.
• Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz of Kraków, Poland, joined the Knights of Columbus for the dedication of the main altar at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C.
• The Polish government honored Supreme Knight Carl Anderson with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C., Oct. 16.

NOVEMBER
• The Knights of Columbus donated $500,000 to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to support the education of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Jordan.
• The Knights of Columbus surpassed $100 billion of life insurance in force, highlighting the fraternal benefit society’s mission to protect Catholic families.
• K of C members distributed new winter coats to hundreds of children in need throughout the country on Black Friday, Nov. 27.

DECEMBER
• In this issue, check out information on the opening of the Holy Doors, nationwide Coats for Kids distributions and the supreme knight’s testimony on Capitol Hill.

APRIL
• Supreme Knight Carl Anderson presented charters for St. Andrew Kim Daegun Council 16000 and St. Paul Chong Hasang Council 16178 in Seoul, South Korea, on April 18. Named for 19th-century Korean martyrs, these are the first councils instituted in Korea outside a military base and the first on the mainland of Asia.

MAY
• Knights and their families were among the crowd of nearly 25,000 gathered on Ottawa’s Parliament Hill on May 14 to participate in Canada’s 18th annual National March for Life.
• The Order joined the Archdiocese for the Military Services in sponsoring wounded and disabled military personnel to travel to the Marian shrine in Lourdes, France, as part of the 57th International Military Pilgrimage, May 15-17.

JUNE
• During the annual Organizational Meeting of Knights of Columbus State Deputies, June 3-7, Supreme Knight Anderson announced the K of C’s record-breaking $173,550,680 in charitable giving and 71,560,617 volunteer hours.
• The Knights of Columbus and the New York State Council joined together to donate $600,000 to the Jesuit-run Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, N.Y., which honors the North American martyrs and Kateri Tekakwitha, the country’s first Native-American saint.

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.

For a Successful Recruitment Drive
Look for new members in the place you’re most likely to find them: your parish. For information on conducting a church recruitment drive and other follow-up recruitment programs, please order A Guide to Recruiting Success: Conducting a Membership Drive (#10098) or visit kofc.org/drive.
Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parishes

Frequently Asked Questions

Please note: These questions and answers are not a comprehensive guide to the program. In-depth support materials and guides will be made available to all grand knights and state deputies. Should you have additional questions, please direct them to the Corporate Communications Department by emailing knightline@kofc.org or calling 203-752-4264.

What is the Building the Domestic Church initiative?
This initiative refers to activities focused on promoting the new evangelization, strengthening our parishes and growing the Order. It is designed to help our members and their families reflect the holiness of the universal Church. In promoting each family as a domestic church, the Knights of Columbus primarily seeks to integrate our members and their families more fully into the sacramental and social life of the parish.

Why is the initiative being promoted by the Supreme Council at this time?
The Knights of Columbus has always been an organization dedicated to the well-being of the family. By building upon our programs and encouraging councils to more fully integrate with the sacramental and social life of their parish, we hope to strengthen our members' families, revitalize our parishes and grow our Order.

Will the initiative change our councils?
The Domestic Church initiative was not designed to change councils; it was designed to help councils refocus on the Order's mission to strengthen families and revitalize parish communities.

To do this, the council must prioritize family activities and support the needs of pastor. Knights should keep the pastor informed about all the resources their council can offer.

What will be the Knights of Columbus' relationship with the Boy Scouts of America and other international Scouting programs?
Consistent with the goal of the Domestic Church initiative, troops must be chartered by the local parish rather than by a council. Knights are strongly encouraged to aid the parish-chartered organization through continued volunteer service, leadership and financial support.

If a council sponsors a Boy Scout troop, what steps does it need to take?
As a preliminary matter, grand knights should meet with their pastors to discern whether Catholic Scouting could fit into the parish's youth ministry. If so, the grand knight will need to coordinate with troop leadership and the local Scouting Council to designate the parish as the chartered organization for the troop. Once this change has been made, the council should continue to provide volunteer leadership and financial support for the troop.

What do these changes mean for active Squires circles?
If a council has an active Squires circle, the grand knight and Squires counselor should meet with the pastor to discuss how the Squires circle may be more fully integrated into the parish's existing youth ministry. Active Squires circles may continue serving and recruiting boys according to current practice. The Supreme Council will continue to provide support materials to the circles.

How should councils begin engaging in parish youth ministry?
Grand knights should meet with their pastors to discuss the role that council members and their families can have in supporting parish-based youth ministry programs and activities. These can also incorporate Knights of Columbus youth programs, such as the Free Throw Championship and the Soccer Challenge. Youth Activity chairmen should act as a liaison with the parish youth ministry team in order to determine how the council can best support parish youth activities.

Will the Supreme Council provide any resources for youth activities or ministry?
The Supreme Council will continue to provide resources through its various existing youth activities. Additionally, more materials relating to faith formation will become available as the Supreme Council continues to expand the Domestic Church program in the months ahead.

Is there a date set at which circles are to cease operations?
At this point, no. The Supreme Council will continue to monitor and evaluate the program over the course of the next year. However, councils are not encouraged to form new circles, and inactive circles should be disbanded.

Should currently active circles continue to recruit new members?
Yes, with the understanding that the program may evolve to meet the needs of the parish's youth ministry.

Will the Squires Advancement program still be supported?
The Supreme Council will continue to support the Squires Advancement program and provide other resources that are currently supplied to active circles.

Will the Supreme Council accept applications for new circles?
If a council has met all the requirements, the Supreme Council will authorize the formation of a new circle. However, as stated above, new circles are not encouraged and existing circles may eventually be integrated into parish youth ministry.

Why is the Knights of Columbus moving away from home corporation-based councils and toward parish-based councils?
To help Catholic men become better husbands, fathers, sons and grandfathers, and to strengthen Christian family and parish life in keeping with Father McGivney's original vision for the Knights of Columbus.

When is it time for a council to move into a parish?
1. When the majority of a council's time, resources and focus are devoted to the home corporation's problems and concerns.
2. When a home corporation's expenses are so burdensome that it is forced to charge the council and its members an exorbitant rent or other fees that may exceed fair market rents of similar facilities in the area.
3. When a home corporation struggles to find suitable rentals to pay its bills because of local competitively priced facilities.
4. When the local reputation of the Knights of Columbus is defined more by non-Knights of Columbus rentals of a home corporation's facilities than by the Order's charitable and evangelical mission.
5. When there is strife, factionalism and outright conflict among members concerning the home corporation's problems.

What is the deadline for councils using Home Corporation facilities to determine whether it should continue to use such facilities?
Councils that decide to continue using home corporation facilities should enter into agreements on or before Jan. 1, 2017. Likewise, councils that determine they must move to a parish should do so no later than Jan. 1, 2017.
A Career Unlike Any Other

“I am an agent for the Knights of Columbus because there’s no other career that can compare.”

- Nate Raso, Phoenix, Ariz.

A career as a Knights of Columbus field agent may very well be the most rewarding, fulfilling and unique opportunity that you’ll ever come across.

First and foremost, it gives you the opportunity to leave your mark. Working with a select group of professionals, you serve your local Catholic community and help support neighboring families.

Second, you get to determine your own level of success. Within our team-based agency system, you can enjoy a flexible schedule and unlimited potential as you work with brother Knights within an exclusive and established territory.

Finally, you don’t have to worry about checking your values at the door to the office. The Knights of Columbus is a proud Catholic company, a “World’s Most Ethical Company” and one of the globe’s greatest forces for good.

Who Are Our Agents?

“This is not my ‘job’ or my ‘career,’ this is my calling.”

- Kevin Pierce, Oklahoma City, Okla.

The Knights of Columbus has more than 1,500 agents across North America. These men come from all walks of life, with differing levels of sales, insurance and fraternal experience. The differences don’t matter, but the similarities do.

All of them are looking to make a good living and a difference. All of them want to serve others. All of them enjoy aligning their faith and their work, and all of them came to us in search of the right team and the right company. We’re glad the agents found all of the above.

How does it work?

“I feel very fortunate to have found the Knights of Columbus very early in my life and to have made this my life’s work.”

- Bob Marlowe, Baltimore, Md.

As a Knights of Columbus field agent, you get to establish your own business as part of a regional agency team. You’re in business for yourself, but you’re never by yourself.

Our agents get to take advantage of a time-tested training system that has helped thousands of agents create successful careers throughout the years. Agents engage in pre-contract work and field-based training. They study in our custom Agent Online University. They participate in continuing education and earn professional designations. They take advantage of a support system of general agents, fellow agents, regional directors and Supreme Council office staff.

What do agents do?

“I am a Knights of Columbus field agent because I don’t believe in the concept of leaving your faith behind when you show up for work.”

- Ted Pataki, Cedar Park, Texas

Our field agents serve an exclusive territory of Knights of Columbus families. Working with their brother Knights, our agents present viable financial and insurance solutions and have regular contact with all of their clients.

Agents also serve existing policy holders and their families, provide survivor assistance and participate in fraternal functions.

Make a Difference

“As a new agent, I experienced firsthand how important life insurance can be for a family. That is why I am still an agent after 38 years in the business.”

- Doug Supak, La Grange, Texas

There’s a lot more to tell you about a career opportunity with the Knights of Columbus. For the right man, there’s no better opportunity and no better vocation to serve.

Are you being called?

Let us know how we can get in touch with you. We’d be happy to schedule a time to give you more information on our system, training and process, and to help lead you on your path to success.

To find out more, visit kofc.org/careers or call (203) 752-4136.

Share Your Activities

The Jubilee Year began on Dec. 8, 2015. Pope Francis has called it a “Year of Mercy” in order to highlight the importance of God’s loving message of compassion and pardon. The yearlong celebration confirms the Church’s role in sharing God’s mercy, from which no person touched by grace can be excluded. Through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, councils throughout the Order can concretely participate in extending this message of mercy.

In addition, the Supreme Council is encouraging all councils to conduct outreach programs in honor of Father Michael McGivney during the week of March 28-April 3. We are interested in what your council may be planning for the week and hope to share your events with other Knights through this newsletter and other publications. Please send any information and photographs on your Outreach Week and Year of Mercy events to knightline@kofc.org.
“Insurance by brother Knights, for brother Knights. That is the Knights of Columbus promise. That is the Knights of Columbus difference. That is the Knights of Columbus advantage.”

Carl Anderson
Supreme Knight