Celebrating Our Founder

One hundred and thirty-five years ago, Father McGivney gathered a small group of Catholic men in the basement of St. Mary’s Church in New Haven, Conn. Small in number, yet noble in ambition and strong in faith, these men were determined to provide financial protection and spiritual support for families of their parish.

Although it has been more than a century since Father McGivney brought these men together, his example of Christian charity is timeless, a fact that Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore shared during a Mass celebrated at St. Mary’s Church on March 29, 2017. The event marked the anniversary of the Knights of Columbus receiving approval of its charter from the state of Connecticut and was attended by members of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council.

“There is something timeless about people who are holy, because their lives speak to each new generation. Such is the case with Father McGivney,” Archbishop Lori explained in his homily. “Father McGivney’s priestly holiness is timeless and is just as relevant for us today as it was when he ministered to the people in this very church.”

Knights Walk for Life in the Philippines

In February and March, Knights of Columbus members from throughout the Philippines joined thousands of pro-life men and women at Walk for Life rallies. Their presence gave witness to the large number of people throughout the nation willing to fight for the dignity of all human life.

Among the councils involved in the Walk for Life events was Father Crisostomo Council 6000 in Cabanatuan City, Luzon North, who joined members of St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish for a Walk for Life in Metro Manila. In addition, St. Louis Council 7439 in Quezon, Luzon South, held a Walk for Life on March 25, 2017. The event was attended by various councils from the Luzon South jurisdiction.

The walks and rallies for life held particular weight this year, taking place soon after the Philippines House of Representatives approved the restoration of the death penalty.

For information on how to support the culture of life in your area, visit kofc.org/prolife.

Grand Knight’s Checklist

✓ Confirm that your council has submitted the Application for Refund Support Vocations Program (#2863) and Food for Families Reimbursement Program Refund and Plaque Application (#10057).
✓ Plan your council’s Affirmation of Wedding Vows event for the weekend of Father’s Day, June 18.
✓ Arrange for the transition of your council officers/chairmen on July 1.
✓ Visit kofc.org for information on planning your council’s participation in Knights of Columbus Family Week, Aug. 7-13.
✓ Make sure your council is on the path to earning the Star Council Award.
✓ Remember these upcoming deadlines:
  • June 30 — Columbian Award Application (#SP-7), the Annual Report - Knights of Columbus Round Table (#2630) and the Civic Award Application (#2321)
  • July 1 — Report of Officers Chosen (#185)
  • Aug. 1 — Service Program Personnel Report (#365)
  • Aug. 15 — Semiannual Council Audit Report (#1295)
This Mother’s Day, Help Moms

As part of your council’s outreach to the community, consider launching a Meals for Moms program this Mother’s Day, May 14. Such a program can provide regular meals for all mothers in your area, including expectant mothers who have other children at home, mothers who have just given birth, mothers whose time is divided between work and home, and mothers who are new to your parish or community. You might deliver premade meals to these moms, which they can then easily reheat and serve.

Work with your pastor to create a list of moms in need of these meals and then set a schedule: Sign up weekly, biweekly or monthly volunteers from your council and parish to cover the meals’ preparation and delivery.

You might also organize a special meal for expectant moms seeking help at pro-life pregnancy centers or women’s shelters. This meal can be served at one of these facilities or at your council meeting place. During the meal, each mom would be treated as a guest of honor and presented with some basic child care items. These items could be collected through a parish or council drive held a week before the event. Also, when possible, have volunteers serve the mothers rather than having them move through cafeteria-style lines; it will be one more way to show that the Knights are there to help. Your council should work closely with centers and shelters to organize this special meal, which should be announced in advance and advertised at participating organizations, in local news sources (both print and online) and in parish bulletins.

Social Media 101: What’s In a Name

What’s in a name? Well, a lot! The name you choose for your council’s Facebook Page conveys your council’s professionalism, makes it easy for potential members to find you and boosts your ranking in search engine results.

All councils should use the same format in naming their Facebook Pages. Simply insert “Knights of Columbus” before the official council name and number so the page name reads like these examples:

• Knights of Columbus Immaculate Heart of Mary Council 4420
• Knights of Columbus Atlanta Council 660
• Knights of Columbus Phil Kelley Council 6878

If you are unsure of your council’s official name, please contact the Fraternal Mission Department at 203-752-4270.

In addition, every council page should use the official K of C emblem as their profile picture. By using the Order’s emblem as your profile picture, your page will appear professional and in line with the Supreme Council’s Facebook presence. You may find downloadable graphics at kofc.org/emblems. Councils should use the Emblem of the Order, while assemblies may use the Fourth Degree emblem.

By following the Supreme Council’s format for your council Facebook Page and Facebook profile picture, you will ensure that your council is taking the first step toward putting its best foot forward!

Founder, from Page 1

Concelebrating with the archbishop were Msgr. J. Peter Cullen, Connecticut state chaplain; Dominican Father Jonathan D. Kalisch, director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development and prior of St. Mary’s Dominican Community; Dominican Father John Paul Walker, pastor of St. Mary’s Parish; Father Joseph A. Marcello, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Trumbull and priest-secretary emeritus to the supreme chaplain; and Dominican Father Marek Domeradzki of Poland. Father Louis Bianco was the master of ceremonies.

Attending the Mass were Knights from Connecticut and relatives of Venerable Michael J. McGivney. John Walshe, great-grandnephew of Father McGivney, and his wife, Kay, were the gift bearers for the Mass. Brian V. Caulfield, vice-postulator for the cause for the canonization of Father McGivney, served as the lector.

After Mass, Archbishop Lori led supreme officers and their wives to the sarcophagus of Father McGivney, located in the rear of the church, where they recited the Prayer for Canonization along with the congregation. The prayer was written in 2008, when the Vatican recognized the heroic virtue of Father McGivney and declared him a venerable Servant of God. A miracle attributed to his intercession is needed for him to advance to beatification.

To find out more about Father McGivney’s cause for beatification, visit fathermcgivneyguild.org.

Last Chance to Submit 2016 Service Numbers

Submission of your council’s 2016 service numbers is a requirement for the Star Council Award. If you have not yet met this requirement, immediately complete and send the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) to Supreme Council headquarters. Access the survey at kofc.org/forms or in the Council Report Forms Booklet (#1436).
New Knights Bring Fresh Energy

Focus on Recruiting Young Fathers

New ideas, youthful energy, a fresh way of looking at old challenges. These are all attributes that young men, especially young fathers, can bring to your council.

To successfully recruit young dads and other men, however, you have to show them that the Order has plenty to offer. Invite them to your service programs, or even better, get them involved in planning projects. Show them that you’re interested in their views and are eager to listen and act.

Here are some ideas on how to bring in young fathers:

• First, identify the young fathers in your parish and community. Be sure to consider the following men:
  ◦ Current Knights’ sons and grandchildren
  ◦ Fathers of parish school students or sports team members
  ◦ Members of fathers’ clubs
  ◦ Dads of the participants in your council’s Free Throw Competition, Essay Contest, Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Competition or Soccer Challenge

• Conduct an invitation program aimed directly at young fathers; highlight programs, family activities and events that will interest them, such as athletics, community service projects and the Order’s insurance benefits.

• Encourage young fathers to check out fathersforgood.org.

• Tell fathers about the Building the Domestic Church initiative and explain how it can help their families’ spiritual formation. Invite them to visit kofc.org/domesticchurch to learn more.

• Conduct First Degree exemplifications specifically for the initiation of young fathers. Encourage the new young members to invite other dads they know to join the council as well.

Recruit Former Members

Former Knights are familiar with the ideals of Columbianism. Although they left the Order at one time, they should not be overlooked by councils striving for membership growth.

When trying to connect with former members, start by appointing a special committee. When possible, this committee should include past grand knights who are familiar with the former members and the reasons they left the Order. Your committee should immediately obtain a list of former members (those who took withdrawals/suspensions) and inactive insurance members (those who took withdrawals/suspensions but maintain K of C insurance policies) from the Fraternal Mission Department. Confirm this list against your financial secretary’s records to make sure you are not missing any names and have the most recent addresses for former members. Review the list to determine which of the former members still live locally and are eligible for membership.

Once you have this list, for each former member, compile a packet containing information about council changes; new programs, activities and benefits; and recent council achievements. This packet should also include copies of Protecting Families for Generations (#10395), 24 Hours Can Change Your Life (#10099), Why You Should Become a Knight (#10100) and a Membership Document (#100). When the packets are ready, contact each former member by phone to arrange a personal visit, or invite them to a reception for former members.

If conducting personal visits:

• Telephone each prospect, asking if two Knights may visit the former member and his wife at a time and date convenient to their family.

• When at the prospect’s home, emphasize local council activities and opportunities for personal involvement by the former member and his entire family.

• Ask the prospect to join and assist him in completing the Membership Document (#100).

• Inform the new members when the next First Degree exemplification will take place.

Receptions can be very effective. They not only introduce prospects to your council but also connect them with other prospective members. If holding a reception, ask your welcome committee to personally greet each guest. Also, see if your chaplain or parish priest can attend and endorse the Knights of Columbus. During your event, publicly introduce officers and members, asking the grand knight or membership director to explain the aims and organization of the council and the Order. Finally, your insurance agent should explain the benefits of membership. You could end by showing a film about the Order, followed by a question and answer session and light refreshments.

Refer to the Recruiting Former Members section of the Membership Recruitment and Retention Manual (#10237) for proper methods of recruiting former members.

NOTE: Reactivating inactive insurance members qualifies the council for insurance additions toward the Founders’ Award quotas. Reinstatements, readmissions or reapplications qualify the council for membership additions for the Father McGivney Award.
This May, Support Vocations

Sunday, May 7, is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Invite your parish to pray for and nurture vocations by taking part in the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP). Through RSVP, councils and assemblies “adopt” one or more seminarians or postulants, providing them with assistance for tuition and books, car insurance and maintenance, emergency expenditures and other living expenses. RSVP also provides emotional and personal support, as participating councils and parishes write letters, sponsor dinners, extend membership invitations and pray for vocations students.

To access vocations-related materials, visit kofc.org/vocations.

Visit KnightsGear Today!

Don’t forget that Knights of Columbus apparel, accessories, books, religious items and a variety of other products are available online at KnightsGear. Featured brands include Adidas, Nike, Cutter & Buck and Columbia. In addition, items can be personalized with council or assembly names. Visit knightsgear.com to see the full selection of items.

To order KnightsGear products through your council’s account, please visit kofc.org. After signing into Officers Online, click on the KnightsGear logo.

How to Schedule and Conduct Degrees

Promptly advancing new members is essential to successful membership. A well-organized, regular schedule of degrees, as well as specially planned exemplifications for candidates with busy schedules, will ensure Knights stay engaged in their council.

Here are some helpful tips:

• Welcome new members to your council using your First Degree team or the First Degree Ceremonial Production DVD.
• Schedule and conduct First Degrees every month or as often as necessary.
• Schedule degrees to fit into candidates’ busy schedules. Regularly changing the exemplifications’ time and day will allow greater participation.
• Publicize the degree schedule at council meetings and in council bulletins, advertisements and mailings. Invite neighboring councils to your degree exemplifications.
• Select honorees for each exemplification for greater impact, visibility and attendance.
• Contact candidates a day or two in advance to confirm attendance and discuss proper attire.
• Arrange, when appropriate, for the proposer or a member of the recruitment committee to pick up the candidate and escort him to the First Degree.
• Make sure your council has ample Candidate Kits (#531) and Admission Degree Certificates (#268) prior to the event.
• Advise new members of the dates and times of the next Second and Third Degree exemplifications.

NOTE: Remember, if a First Degree team is not available, the First Degree DVD may be used. For more information, contact Fraternal Education, Training and Ceremonials at ceremonials@kofc.org or 203-752-4270, option 3.

Knightline Online

If you like what you see in this issue of Knightline, visit our website at kofc.org/newsletters to view archived issues of Knightline and other major publications.

It’s Not Too Late to Qualify!

Councils that have recruited a total of 12 or more members between Jan. 1 and June 30, 2017, will qualify to receive a free Domestic Church kiosk and booklet set.* Has your council not yet met this quota? Encourage your brother Knights to ask a prospect to join today!

*Offers are valid only for councils and agents in the United States, Canada and Guam.
Commitment to family life is at the core of the Knights of Columbus’ beliefs and ideals. This summer, put family first by inviting your parish and greater community to a celebration during Knights of Columbus Family Week, Aug. 7-13. Family Week is a special opportunity for our Order to celebrate and emphasize the importance of the family through programs that strengthen parish community and unite Catholic family life.

Family Week should begin and end with a family Mass that’s followed by the Consecration to the Holy Family (#10371). Throughout the rest of the week, you can celebrate family life through fun and meaningful events. Open your events to all families of the parish, taking care to plan for a variety of ages and interests. You might celebrate by promoting a family rosary, hosting a parish picnic or a Friday evening movie night. Since Family Week is held around the anniversaries of Father McGivney’s birth and death, it is also fitting to follow up your event with a membership drive and a First Degree exemplification held in his remembrance.

When planning your week of events, make sure you discuss times and logistics with your pastor or chaplain. Since families plan time away during the summer, your pastor might suggest a different date for your events — whichever date you decide, remember that you’ll need to begin promoting your Family Week several weeks in advance.

For additional information and resources, visit kofc.org/familyweek.

Council Reflection

Caught Up Into Divine Love

By Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori.

More than 50 years ago, the fathers of Vatican II recognized that marriage was threatened by divorce and so-called “free love” and that “married love is too often dishonored by selfishness, hedonism, and unlawful contraceptive practices.” The council also cited the economic, social and psychological pressures facing families in the modern world (Gaudium et Spes, 47).

For the past five decades, societal support for marriage and family has eroded even further. But there’s no sense in longing for the good old days or just complaining about the way things are. Instead, more and more couples must make a conscious decision to make their homes truly a domestic church — a home built on the solid rock of faith. Families are made beautiful by a self-giving love that not only endures but flourishes amid sacrifices and sufferings. Such a home, rooted in faith and love, bears witness to Christ and his love for his people. Such a home bears witness to the beauty and nobility of the vocation of marriage.

As the cultural erosion of authentic marriage continues, one thing might be clearer than ever: A couple cannot go it alone. There’s really no way to live the vocation of marriage without getting caught up into divine love. Far from being a starry-eyed notion, this is the only way to transform life’s sufferings and inconveniences into moments of grace.

This excerpt originally appeared in the March 2016 issue of Columbia. The complete issue may be found at kofc.org/columbia.

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.
“Guide to Praying the Rosary”

The full-color pamphlet *A Guide to Praying the Rosary* (#4772) is the perfect item to distribute in your parish during the month of May, as the month is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Mother. This pocket-sized guide includes Scripture passages and images associated with the mysteries of the rosary, the prayers of the rosary and a method of praying the rosary. If you have questions about the guide, send an email to cis@kofc.org or call 203-752-4267.

This June, Welcome Fathers

On Father's Day, June 18, we honor our fathers and the role they play in our development as people. Be sure to honor these leaders of our families by asking them to join the Knights of Columbus, an organization that is focused on serving both the Church and its families. Include our spiritual fathers in your efforts by offering membership in the Knights of Columbus to every Catholic priest.

Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest

Get a head start on ordering materials for the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest! By July and August, councils, assemblies and circles should have completed ordering *Knights of Columbus Essay Contest Kits* from the Supreme Council. By ordering the kits in advance, you’ll be fully prepared before the start of the new school year. Visit kofc.org/essay to order your kit today.

Take a Year-End Inventory

A year-end inventory is a great way council officers and program directors can help incoming officers and chairmen in the new fraternal year, which begins July 1.

Begin this inventory by discussing last year’s membership recruitment, retention and program activities. Size up their strengths and weaknesses. When reviewing, provide a fair and unbiased assessment, and avoid assigning blame for unsuccessful projects.

When reviewing programs, ask these questions:

- How well did the council follow the membership recruitment and service programming plans designed at the start of the year?
- Were these plans realistic?
- Were the plans overly ambitious, or did they fail to tap into the council’s full potential?
- Were goals achieved?
- Were families involved to a sufficient degree? If not, how can family involvement be expanded?
- Were the entire parish and community involved in these efforts?
- Were Supreme Council materials fully utilized?
- What programs can be expanded or improved? How can glitches be avoided next year?
- How might your council plan differently or more wisely in the upcoming fraternal year?

Please share this year-end inventory and evaluation with your council’s incoming grand knight and program directors.

Important Forms Due on June 30

Two important year-end forms are due at the Supreme Council office by June 30. First is the *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7), which is a requirement of the Star Council Award. Second is the *Food for Families Reimbursement Program Refund and Plaque Application* (#10057), on which councils should outline their support of food pantries, food banks and soup kitchens.

These forms can be accessed at kofc.org/forms.

The Knights and CAC

The Knights have a long history of promoting Catholicism and sports, counting Catholic athletes such as Babe Ruth, Vince Lombardi and Floyd Patterson among our brothers. Today, we work with Catholic Athletes for Christ (CAC) to support athletes in their faith, imitate Christ and witness to the Gospel.

In the past several years, the Knights of Columbus has worked with CAC to co-sponsor various events, including mini-NFL football combines and flag football games for Special Olympic athletes. Additionally, Catholic professional athletes often assist during various Coats for Kids events.

Consider bringing a Catholic athlete to your next council meeting, parish event or K of C-sponsored activity. Visit CAC’s website, catholicathletesforchrist.org, to learn more about the organization and the many ways it is working together with the Knights to create a Catholic culture in sports.

Craig Stammen, pictured during a 2008 Harrisburg Senators game, is a relief pitcher for the San Diego Padres now entering his 9th season in the major leagues. In a new Knights of Columbus-produced video, he shares how his Catholic faith and membership in the Knights of Columbus has helped him achieve his dreams. (Photo by Chris Knight)
For most of us, the idea of not working is an exciting one. We relish weekends and vacations. We look forward to holidays and special occasions. We plan for retirement and count down the number of days until we arrive at the freedom that we have planned for so deliberately.

But what if the end of work comes not with freedom, but with surprise? What if the end of work comes with an illness or an accident that prevents us from doing our job? Will we be prepared? Can we be?

With the help of the Knights of Columbus, members and their families can.

We welcome retirement because we have planned for it. We know when it is coming, we know what it will take to get there, and we know what we will need when it arrives. But how can we plan for something unexpected? How can we know what we will need when we do not know what will happen?

Disability insurance is often dismissed by working men and women because they think their jobs are fairly safe. Their lives are fairly healthy. Disability — they say — is simply something they will never experience.

The statistics tell a different story.

According to the United States government, a staggering 1 in 4 of today’s 20-year-olds will become disabled before reaching the age of 67.* The nature of the job is irrelevant. According to the Social Security Administration, 95 percent of all disabling illnesses and accidents happen outside of the workplace.**

Consider a typical male, age 35, a non-smoker, who works at an office job with some outdoor responsibilities and leads a very healthy lifestyle. He has a 21 percent chance of being injured or becoming ill and unable to work for three months or longer prior to retirement.***

And what happens once that occurs? What happens if your last paycheck is really your last paycheck?

If your illness or injury is among the 95 percent that happen outside of work, workers’ compensation will be of no assistance to you. If you plan to rely on the government, you may find that you are among the 64 percent of Americans — including severely disabled Americans — who do not receive any assistance from the government or governmental programs, including Medicare, Social Security and supplemental Security Insurance.****

But the situation does not need to be that desperate. Your membership in the Knights of Columbus gives you and your eligible family members exclusive access to disability income insurance that can help safeguard your paycheck.

With Knights of Columbus Disability Income Insurance, you can help make sure that you continue to earn an income, even when you cannot work.

Our disability income insurance is designed to be flexible so that, working with your brother Knight field agent, you can customize it to fit your needs. You choose the monthly benefit amount that’s right for you, the elimination period that makes the most sense, and the maximum benefit period for your policy.

And, by purchasing a disability income insurance policy from the Knights of Columbus, you have the added security of knowing that you are doing business with an unapologetically Catholic company that makes sure its investments do not violate Church teaching and which has been repeatedly recognized as a “World’s Most Ethical” company.*****

You owe it to yourself and to your family to make sure that your financial future is secure, regardless of what happens. Don’t be caught off guard by surprises. Be on guard and be prepared.

Talk to your Knights of Columbus field agent today to learn how easy and affordable disability income insurance can be.

Find him at kofc.org/findagent.

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Uncertain how to plan effective programing? Feel that the various skills and experience of your council members aren't being utilized to the fullest? Do some Knights feel overwhelmed with responsibilities while others feel bored?

If these questions arise, grand knights and financial secretaries should take the time to reevaluate their council members’ strengths and interests. To do this, go to the Member Management section of kofc.org. There, you can find a customizable page where the interests of each and every Knight of your council may be entered. Simply check off the appropriate boxes among the 46 predetermined options, or create additional boxes to keep track of unique interests.

Completing this form and allowing each Knight to engage areas that actually interest him will renew your council, strengthen its unity and fraternity, and help member retention.