On June 21, Pope Francis received in private audience a delegation from the Pro Football Hall of Fame, during which he urged the professional athletes to be role models.

At the start of the audience, Supreme Knight Anderson introduced the delegation to the pope, sharing that football is considered “a metaphor for the American experience.” Explaining this, he mentioned Vince Lombardi, a coach and Knight of Columbus who said of one of his championship teams, “They didn’t do it for individual glory. They did it because they loved one another.”

In his following address, Pope Francis observed, “Teamwork, fair play and the pursuit of personal excellence are the values — in the religious sense, we can say virtues — that have guided your own commitment on the field. Yet these same values are urgently needed off the field, on all levels of our life as a community. They are the values that help build a culture of encounter in which we anticipate and meet the needs of our brothers and sisters and combat the exaggerated individualism, indifference and injustice that hold us back from living as one human family.

See Football, page 2

Grand Knight’s Checklist — August & September

- Remember these important dates:
  - Aug. 7-13 — K of C Family Celebrations
  - Aug. 15 — Semiannual Council Audit Report (#1295) due
  - Aug. 14-20 — Orderwide Admission Degree Week
  - Sept. 11 — International World Day of Prayer for Peace
- 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.
The supreme knight further thanked Pope Francis for his message to the 2017 Super Bowl, saying, “We are grateful to you for reminding all athletes of their responsibility as role models toward children and youth, and of the need for solidarity with those ‘at the edges of society’ — especially those who are challenged by poverty or disability.”

In reply, the Holy Father thanked the supreme knight “for his gracious words of introduction, which stressed the traditional values of sportsmanship that you seek to embody, both on the field and in your own lives, your families and your communities.”

To read more about the private audience, visit kofc.org.

Caring for Our Own

Because the Knights of Columbus isn’t just another insurance company, our members are more to us than customers — current or potential — who are valued only for the products they purchase. Father McGivney founded the Knights 135 years ago so that we could help each other, and so we offer unique products and services out of concern for the well-being of both you and your family. That’s the Knights of Columbus difference.

For starters, we extend to our members an Accidental Death benefit for free, just by virtue of their membership in the Knights of Columbus. The program — which is only available in insurance jurisdictions — provides a benefit of $1,000-$2,500 upon the accidental death of any member or his spouse (subject to certain age restrictions). Since its launch in 1994, the program has provided nearly $15 million in benefits.

See Caring, page 7

“Peace to Our Violent World”

On the 16th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, transform tragic memories into earnest prayers for peace. If you have not yet planned how your council will observe the Knights of Columbus World Day of Prayer for Peace, visit kofc.org/prayerforpeace.

This August, Honor Our Founder

On Aug. 12 and Aug. 14, the Knights of Columbus commemorates the anniversaries of Father McGivney’s birth and death. Mark these anniversaries by inviting a brother Knight* or a friend to join the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild. Imagine if every guild member asked just one new person to join — the number of people who know about the amazing life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney would double in size! For details, visit fathermcgivney.org or write to The Father McGivney Guild, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326.

*Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically guild members and must elect to join.

Reminder: Important Due Date

The Service Program Personnel Report (#365) and this period’s Semiannual Council Audit Report (#1295) are due each year on Aug. 1 and Aug. 15. These forms may be accessed at kofc.org/forms or in the Council Report Forms Booklet (#1436). If you have not yet done so, please submit them immediately.

Order Now!

Now is the time to order materials for the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge and the K of C Essay Contest. Before ordering, be sure to determine how many Catholic schools and/or homeschooling families will be participating so that you can secure enough materials. Materials for the essay contest and soccer challenge can be ordered from Knightsgear or the Supply Department.

Football, from Page 1

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To read more about the private audience, visit kofc.org.
Congratulations to Our Award-Winning Councils

The Supreme Council office has announced the winners of the 2016-17 Star Council, Columbian, Father McGivney and Founders’ awards.

As of the date of this publication, councils winning the Star Council Award numbered 2,071. Luzon North led with 193 councils, Luzon South with 152 councils and Mindanao with 148 councils. The totals for the other awards were 5,438 Columbian Award winners; 3,237 Father McGivney Award winners; and 2,647 Founders’ Award winners.

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

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 Council, including Double Star and Triple Star).

Questions concerning any of these awards should be forward to the Fraternal Mission Department. 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 Columbian magazine.

WINNERS OF THE 2016-2017 STAR COUNCIL, COLUMBIAN, FATHER MCGIVNEY AND FOUNDERS' AWARDS
Promptly advancing new members through degree exemplifications is absolutely essential to building and maintaining membership. A well-organized, regular schedule of degrees will ensure this progression and prevent the loss of potential Knights.

1. Sponsor a First Degree team or participate on a district degree team.
2. Schedule and conduct a First Degree exemplification every month or every other month.
3. Publicize the degree schedule at council meetings and in council bulletins, advertisements and mailings. For greater impact, visibility and attendance, select honorees for each exemplification and mention their names in your ads and invitations.
4. Schedule degree exemplifications around important council dates. Be sure to avoid major holidays and to invite neighboring councils.
5. Contact candidates a day or two in advance to confirm attendance. Advise prospects about proper attire for the event and arrange for each candidate to travel to the exemplification with a member of the recruitment committee.
6. Distribute Candidate Kits (#531), which include a rosary, Knights of Columbus lapel pin, the *These Men They Call Knights* booklet, and New Member Certificates (#268). Recently exemplified Second, Third and Fourth Degree members can be given a corresponding degree certificate.
7. Print the names of new members in the next scheduled council bulletin.
8. Advise new members of the dates of the next Second and Third Degree exemplifications.

Don’t Make Prospects Wait

Have you ever waited to welcome a prospect because a First Degree exemplification was not scheduled? Or because a First Degree team was not available? In these cases, simply utilize the First Degree Ceremonial DVD. This production aids any council lacking a degree team and is perfect for those times when special circumstances prevent the candidate from attending a First Degree ceremonial. Of course, it is still preferable that a First Degree exemplification be conducted by a skilled council team. However, we understand that some councils have different circumstances, and this video offers every council the opportunity to expand and grow.

Councils must strictly conform to the ceremonial production at all times. Additions, omissions, changes or innovations of any kind are absolutely prohibited. A minimum of two council officers should be present for its presentation.

The use of the First Degree Ceremonial Production is restricted to use by your council. It may not be posted on any website. The grand knight, financial secretary and warden should be custodians of the video and know its whereabouts at all times.

The grand knight should see that these regulations are obeyed. For more information, contact the Ceremonial Department or visit Officers Online at kofc.org.

Caring, from Page 2

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

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

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

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