As we put our faith into action and charge headlong “Into the Breach,” we need more men to join us.

Inside this issue you’ll find information and tips about welcoming new Knights at every opportunity. Holding a membership drive at your parish (see page 2) is a great way to grow your council, raise awareness about Faith In Action (page 3) and spark interest in your good works in the local community.

Together, let’s make membership drives a staple of our spring activities. The world is counting on us.

See inside for details.

The World Needs Knights Now More Than Ever

More than 600 children in Forest Park, Ga., received new winter coats from the Georgia State Council on Jan. 30 — making the largest Coats for Kids single distribution event in Knights of Columbus history!

A Coats for Kids distribution is a Knights of Columbus Super Bowl tradition, with the Knights hosting the event in the Super Bowl host city.

Check out the video of the event here: https://youtu.be/evgETgmEPco.

The Knights have distributed more than 130,000 coats in the United States and Canada. Get involved and help more kids in need. Visit kofc.org/coats.

More About Church Drives
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Choose a Week
The timing of your church drive is crucial to its success. Hold a drive during a busy time at the parish, such as the beginning of the Lent, when men are starting to take a more active interest in committing to their faith and parish life.

Plan the Details
Once you select a week to hold the church drive, you’ll want to plan out the entire event. Be sure to include the following:

Pulpit Announcement
Obtain the permission of your pastor to make a brief announcement about the council and your drive following one or more Masses. At the end of Mass, council members should be available to answer any questions, hand out flyers or assist with membership documents. Wear Knights of Columbus apparel to make yourselves easily identifiable.

Information Night/Fraternal Benefits Night
Plan an informational night where men can learn more about the Knights of Columbus and what your council does. Reach out to your field agent and ask him to speak about the Order’s insurance program.

Faith, Fraternity and Service Events
Expose prospective members to all facets of the Knights of Columbus. Start by organizing some of the Faith In Action programs listed at kofc.org/faithinaction. Your events don’t need to be large-scale; you could gather for daily Mass, grab dinner as a council or help your parish with a project. This will allow men to see the diversity and influence of your council.

Join Us
Men will join the Knights — if you ask them. Invite them to join by completing the Form 100 or visiting kofc.org/joinus. Extend the invitation to your greater community: advertise kofc.org/joinus in your parish bulletin, with your pastor’s permission, and in community news outlets.

Put Your Faith In Action
Remain vibrant and exciting by conducting an event for new members. It can be as simple as a dinner with the Knights and their families or something more involved, such as a community service project. Finding ways to keep new members engaged will keep them interested and active.

Promote Your Council
Create flyers and posters to distribute around your parish, with the permission of your pastor. If your council has a Facebook page or a Twitter account, you can promote your drive using social media. Also, wearing Knights of Columbus gear creates awareness of your council. The more your council’s presence is made known, the more men will be interested.

Order Brochures and Supplies
Candidate’s Kits, brochures, posters and other materials are available for free from the Supreme Council. Visit kofc.org for ordering details.

Tip: Skip the Form 100! Sign up prospects immediately during your drive at kofc.org/joinus.

Having a good relationship with your pastor can make your council’s programs stronger and your impact go further. But did you know your pastor can also be a top recruiter, too? Here are some easy steps to help you work with your pastor:

Let your pastor know he can count on your council.
Your council is there to support your parish. It’s a good idea for your grand knight or membership director to have regular communication with the pastor to keep him up to date about council activities. This open communication will help your pastor see that the Knights of Columbus really is the strong right arm of the Church.

Set goals together with your pastor.
Take communication to the next step by planning time with your pastor to set common goals, such as raising money for parish renovations or planning monthly dinners for parish families. Don’t be afraid to get creative: How can your council foster a more active parish life? How can your pastor help spread the word about your council and encourage men to join?

Introduce your pastor to Online Membership.
If your pastor doesn’t already know about Online Membership, walk him through the process at kofc.org/joinus. Once he sees how simple it is, it won’t be difficult to get him to encourage busy men to start their journey with the Knights.
How Faith In Action Helps You

Scott Read, senior director of program and brand management, explains how Faith In Action — the Knights’ program model that promotes Faith, Family, Community and Life — helps you personally respond to the call of the Holy Spirit.

Tell us about Faith In Action. How does it help councils and parishes? How does it help bring in new members?

It’s a simple answer: Faith In Action aligns your council and your activities with the vision of our founder, Father Michael McGivney. With Faith In Action, we incorporate a model that more fully integrates Knights with the sacramental and social life of the parish. By doing so, we look to strengthen our members, their families, revitalize our parishes and grow our Order.

Can Faith In Action help my council earn the Star Council Award?

Yes; you’ll need to complete Faith In Action’s four required programs (Spiritual Reflection, Consecration to the Holy Family, Helping Hands and Novena for Life). If you haven’t yet completed these programs, meet with your pastor or chaplain. Work with him to identify times in the next few months to conduct them.

Lent is fast approaching. Can Faith In Action be used in Lent?

Absolutely — Faith In Action is a great way to reenergize your current membership during the coming Lenten season. Great Lenten programs are Spiritual Reflection, the Building the Domestic Church Kiosk, Into the Breach, Good Friday Family Promotion, Helping Hands and Mass for People with Special Needs.

What is the goal behind conducting these programs?

Ultimately, it doesn’t matter how many people participate or how many dollars are raised. What matters is that our programs help those in need, whatever that may be. The Holy Spirit will then do the rest.

Can families participate in Faith In Action programs?

Faith-filled family programs are at the core of Faith In Action. Invite K of C families — as well as prospective members of the parish and their families — to participate in an event that involves families, such as a Food for Families drive, a local Special Olympics game, or a Wheelchair Sunday event.

When should councils start planning for the new fraternal year?

Start now! Begin with programs that best engage local Knights and future members. Also, review your 2018-19 programs while they are still fresh. Ask yourself what worked well, what did not. Are the programs still relevant to your council and parish? Are there others that your pastor and chaplain wants to do for his parish? Which program can change the world — even on a local level — and help Catholics to reengage with God’s Church?

How do I keep track of the Faith In Action programs my council conducts? How do I aim for success next year?

Work with your council to complete the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728). Look at the numbers you put down on this form: Ask yourself if you did more or less than last year, and why. Also, regularly complete the Fraternal Program Report Form (#10784) and complete the Columbian Award Application (#SP-7) early.

Any last words you’d like to tell council leaders?

You do great things! Faith In Action is your tool to achieve your goals of programs and council growth — growth in members, in charity and protection of families. Nevertheless, for Faith In Action to work, you as a leader must take the necessary steps. Visit kofc.org/faithinaction to learn more about these great programs and how you can put your council’s faith into action!

Visit kofc.org/faithinaction to learn the higher purpose behind Faith In Action and to get general action steps.

Thanks to Scott Read for sharing these insights on Faith In Action. Learn more by visiting kofc.org/faithinaction.
Congratulations to Knights from Father Herman J. Vegar Council 5561 in Warrenton, Va.! The council funded the 1,000th ultrasound machine donated by Knights of Columbus in the last 10 years. The Knights’ Ultrasound Initiative is the greatest humanitarian effort the organization has ever undertaken. And this great victory for life could not be achieved without you.

Yet, for our efforts, nearly 125,000 babies are killed by abortion each day. That calls us to take further action.

Pray. Our pro-life work is nothing without prayers to establish a culture of life in our nation and throughout the world.

Ask your council to get involved in the Faith In Action pro-life programs, such as the Ultrasound Initiative, Pregnancy Center Support, Special Olympics and Masses for People with Special Needs.

Lead pro-life fundraising campaigns, such as baby bottle boomerangs and pancake breakfasts.

Work with your pastor, fellow parishioners and communities to organize an event that meets the needs of local pro-life pregnancy centers.

Don’t feel you have to fight alone. Invite men to join your council and be part of your pro-life efforts.

“Our Greatest Humanitarian Effort Starts With You

Knights share the message to “Love Life, Choose Life” at the national March for Life in Washington, D.C. (Spirit Juice Studios)

“How Can We Can Band Together and Do More?

Here Are Five Tips:

1. Pray. Our pro-life work is nothing without prayers to establish a culture of life in our nation and throughout the world.

2. Ask your council to get involved in the Faith In Action pro-life programs, such as the Ultrasound Initiative, Pregnancy Center Support, Special Olympics and Masses for People with Special Needs.

3. Lead pro-life fundraising campaigns, such as baby bottle boomerangs and pancake breakfasts.

4. Work with your pastor, fellow parishioners and communities to organize an event that meets the needs of local pro-life pregnancy centers.

5. Don’t feel you have to fight alone. Invite men to join your council and be part of your pro-life efforts.

“Because of the efforts of thousands of brother Knights and countless pro-life volunteers, we will save the lives of 1 million unborn children — the greatest humanitarian achievement in the history of the Knights of Columbus.”

— Supreme Knight Carl Anderson

Our pro-life efforts would be nothing without your help and commitment. Visit kofc.org/life to learn more on how your council can defend life today.
Missouri Knights Save More Than 2,500 Lives

Thanks to Knight Joe Dalton and members of St. Patrick Council 2627, hundreds of women—including a 21-year-old named Faith Major—were helped at a pro-life center founded by the Knights. Since 2008, the clinic has saved 2,931 lives.

Faith Major was excited when she first found out that she was pregnant. But when she told her then-fiancé and family members, they didn’t share her joy, saying they were “terrified” for her. Major’s fiancé even advised her to abort the baby and then try again after they were married.

Major was devastated and unsure of what she should do. But staff of Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) of Rolla, Mo—and Knights from St. Patrick Council 2627—empowered her to put herself and her baby first.

“They treated me with dignity and respect, and they asked me what I needed for my baby,” Major said. “They encouraged me and showed me that the actions I was already taking were going to benefit my baby, and that I just had to focus on him and what was best for him.”

Major gave birth to her son Noah on Aug. 4, 2018, and on Jan. 18, she marched with him at the March for Life. There, she met with members of Congress and Vice President Mike Pence as part of a “Babies Go to Congress” event. She and Noah were accompanied by Joe Dalton, the pregnancy center’s executive director, and his wife, Jane.

Dalton is a Knights of Columbus, serving as life director of St. Patrick Council 2627 in Rolla.

“You have a young lady that chose life and she was brave enough to admit it publicly afterward,” said Dalton. “Just to admit that you were considering abortion at one point while you’re holding your baby, that is a strong woman, and now she is doing it on a national level.”

Council 2627 was instrumental in establishing the PRC, with the entire board of directors being comprised of Knights and their spouses. The council continues to financially support the pregnancy center.

“It was a direct calling,” said Dalton. “I left behind my very secular job and went into full-time, pro-life work at that time because God told me to.”

Started in 2009, the Ultrasound Initiative is a staple of the Faith In Action program developed by the Knights of Columbus. More than 1,000 machines, valued at $49 million, have been donated to pro-life pregnancy centers in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, as well as Brazil, Canada, Jamaica, Peru and Africa. Supreme Knight Carl Anderson has called the program the Knights’ “greatest humanitarian effort.”

“When you are working with abortion-minded clients, it helps to have every possible means at your disposal,” said Dalton. “Having an effective pregnancy center that knows how to work with abortion-minded clients and then having the ultrasound there is, ‘Oh by the way, let’s take a look at the baby,’ it’s very powerful to be able to do that.”

To further the mission, Dalton and his wife, Jane, founded “In His Image Ultrasound” — a program to assist other Knights of Columbus councils in their fundraising efforts to obtain machines as well as training for medical staff. They have been able to help place over 100 machines, including 45 in Missouri.

This was not the first time the Daltons have participated in “Babies Go to Congress.” Last year, they accompanied another young woman named Kelsey Hedges. Read more in the full article by Andrew Fowler at kofc.org/marchforlife.

Your council can help support women like Faith and Kelsey. Check out the life-based Faith In Action programs at kofc.org/life.
“They left everything and followed him.” My brothers, these words shock me every time I hear or read them. If we are honest, we have to admit how hard it is to leave everything to follow Jesus. After all, we are so good at taking stuff with us as we attempt to follow him — our pride, our possessions, our desire for power, more comfort and pleasure. We attempt to drag this heavy luggage along, or sometimes try to sneak little trinkets into our bags to take with us: maybe it’s our wandering eyes, our temper, a critical spirit, or our workaholism. But Jesus and his disciples travel lightly. He invites us to leave everything and follow him. Let’s experience this genuine freedom of being his disciple: a freedom which hits the open road with our Lord, free of everything that hinders us.

This Month’s Challenge

This month I challenge you to join other Catholic men who are striving to “leave everything and follow him.” Join them for some time of prayer, fellowship and encouragement, possibly during a Knights meeting, breakfast or a drink after work. Secondly, I challenge you to be open with a brother in Christ about some area of your life where you are facing challenges. “Leaving everything” means that we also need to leave behind our pretense and appearances and meet each other as true brothers.
K of C Insurance Benefits You Don’t Want to Miss

Sonny Sangemino is a Regional Agency Executive Consultant in Canada. Here, he points out benefits can protect your family’s financial future. Share the details with all men interested in joining your council — by joining, they can build a secure future and achieve peace of mind through K of C Insurance products.

As a member of the Knights of Columbus, you have access to a professionally trained field agent who can help you and your family plan for life’s eventualities.

Your Knights of Columbus field agent has the tools, expertise and products to address your concerns and needs. Specifically, all agents employ a powerful tool — “Profiles & Forecaster,” a proven industry financial analysis. By sitting with your agent and answering a few questions about your current financial situation, your agent can generate an accurate report of your financial needs in the event of death, disability, long-term care, retirement or university funding. This comprehensive review will identify areas in your financial plan where you are on-track and areas that may need attention. It is a complimentary benefit, available through your Knights of Columbus field agent to members and their families. This review is provided in the comfort of your home and is, of course, confidential.

Another complimentary benefit available to members is our Knights of Columbus “Personal Planning Workbook.” This guide assists members in compiling important personal and financial information and helps you prepare crucial documents, such as your will and powers of attorney. You will also be walked through how to plan a Catholic funeral, as well as the steps you must take when someone passes away. This workbook has been prepared from a Catholic perspective by brother Knights for families just like yours. You can obtain your complimentary copy by inviting your assigned Knights of Columbus field agent to visit with you and your family.

Your field agent is an expert in the many complimentary services and participatory benefits available to K of C families. As we continue through 2019, I ask you to make two commitments. First, please visit with your field agent and review your personal financial solution. Second, encourage your brother Knights to do the same.

Live in Canada and have questions about K of C insurance? Visit mykofcinsurance.com or email sonny.sangemino@kofc.org. You can also find an agent in your area by visiting kofc.org/findagent.

Top 5 Questions You’ve Wanted to Ask About K of C Insurance

1. How does K of C life insurance work?
   By purchasing a K of C life insurance policy and paying premiums you ensure that when you die, your beneficiary (or beneficiaries) will receive a lump sum, also known as a death benefit.

2. How much life insurance do I need?
   Your life insurance needs depend on your current and future financial obligations. Your field agent can meet with you at your convenience and analyze the needs of you and your family.

3. What is a premium and a beneficiary?
   A premium is the amount of money you pay for your insurance policy; premiums can be fixed or flexible, depending on your coverage. A beneficiary is the person (or persons) who will receive the proceeds of your life insurance policy when you die.

4. What if I already have insurance coverage with my employer?
   Even if you have life insurance coverage with your employer, your coverage may not be enough and your employee benefits may not be guaranteed. If you leave your company, you cannot take your life insurance with you. It’s important to review your insurance policy periodically to make sure it still meets your financial needs.

5. I have K of C insurance; where can I find my current policy?
   It’s easy. Simply contact your K of C agent to discuss the details of your current policy or annuity values. Find your local agent by visiting kofc.org/findagent.

More questions? Visit kofc.org/insurance.
Your Shield of STRENGTH

The Knights of Columbus remains committed to Venerable Father Michael McGivney’s vision of protecting the financial future of our Catholic families.

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