

In Faith and In Action.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

NEW COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: *Advancing the Order*

As a dedicated service organization, Knights of Columbus believes that when a Knight acts selflessly, he acts on behalf of the world. As Knights, we also act on behalf of our faith. Such a philosophy is what has helped give purpose to our organization and meaning to our efforts.

Today, the Order has grown into a vital organization of more than 1.6 million members. Our resources are utilized to support countless causes, programs, and parishes all over the world. And through continued growth, we not only preserve the goal of our founder, Father McGivney, of uniting men in their faith, but we also realize his dream of one day having a presence in every parish. While we understand the magnitude of that goal, we also trust that through the enthusiasm and faithfulness of our members, it can be achieved.





THE REWARDS OF ESTABLISHING A KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL

Father McGivney's hope of having a Knights of Columbus presence in every parish stemmed from his belief that local councils could achieve great things for the Church. In addition to creating an Order where Catholic men could grow their faith and help each other in times of need, Father McGivney saw an opportunity to help parishes themselves prosper through five key areas of service—faith, community, family, youth, and fellowship.

Because of his vision, today Knights of Columbus is a well-respected service organization of over 12,000 local councils. One that has helped countless communities, and their parishes, flourish.

OFTENTIMES, THE *GOODNESS*
OF A MAN IS MEASURED BY THE
GOOD THAT HE DOES

As men of faith, Knights strive to make a difference by being part of the difference. Knights of Columbus councils offer Catholic men of honor and conviction the opportunity to be part of a truly unique service organization.

Our members are mentors, leaders, and humanitarians. They are husbands and fathers. They are role models dedicated to serving the Church and worthy causes, realizing the importance of being both followers of God and leaders in their communities.

Being a Knights of Columbus council member holds many rewards. In addition to being instrumental in the council's development, Knights and their families can also partake of many advantages separate from elective participation in Knights of Columbus Insurance. For example, Knights receive a complimentary subscription to *Columbia*, the Order's monthly magazine. Member families also benefit from various insurance coverages and even have access to scholarships for higher education.



DEVELOPING A NEW KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL

The process of establishing a new council is begun when the District Deputy, along with the State's New Council Development Chairman, initiates the process. The District Deputy would first contact a parish's priest and discuss the benefits of hosting a council. Once the priest's support is garnered, members are recruited from within the parish. Quite often, members of a council are men who are already actively involved in their parishes. In fact, any Catholic male in good standing with the Catholic Church, who is over the age of 18, can be a Knight.

In order for a local council to succeed and attain its goal of thirty members, the expectations of its members must be clearly communicated by the New Council Team. For instance, members are expected to pay a modest initiation fee and annual dues. Members are also required to attend regular council meetings, typically held every other week.

Of course, this is only a summary of what it takes to start a new council. However, through the dedication of key individuals, starting a new council can be an extremely rewarding experience. *(A more detailed explanation of member expectations can be found in the New Council Development Guidelines booklet #2119.)*



MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH GROWING THE ORDER

More than a century later, it's inspiring to see how Father McGivney's steadfast dedication has been realized. What was once an Order of only a few has grown into a service organization of thousands, each member helping his parish while also contributing to his community. Which is why we believe that each new council is an opportunity to fulfill Father McGivney's dream of unifying men in their faith and in our Church. It is a task that truly benefits everyone—our families, our parishes, our Church, and, in countless ways, ourselves.

For detailed guidelines on how to establish a Knights of Columbus council in your parish, please reference the New Council Development Guidelines booklet #2119.

For information on how to obtain the booklet, as well as other support materials such as New Council Development posters, simply call 1-203-752-4161.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

COUNCIL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
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