

Knightline

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

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News for Knights of Columbus Leaders • 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326, USA

Broncos and Knights of Columbus Help Alleviate Cold Reality for Inner-City Kids

With the biggest NFL football event of the year scheduled during a record cold snap, several players and coaches from the Broncos joined with the Knights of Columbus to bring warmth to inner-city children at a local school prior to the game.

The Jan. 28 Knights of Columbus “Coats for Kids” event was held at Sacred Heart Elementary School in Jersey City, N.J., with the support of the Jack and Linda Del Rio Foundation and Catholic Athletes for Christ. Jack Del Rio is the Broncos’ defensive coordinator.

“While there was much talk about this year’s championship game taking place in the midst of record cold weather and the hardships that were endured by fans and players for several hours on Superbowl Sunday, this ‘Coats for Kids’ event served as a timely reminder that for too many children harsh cold is a daily reality at this time of year,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson.

The supreme knight and several other Knights of Columbus were joined by about a dozen members of the Broncos organization, including the Del Rios and Ray McKenna, president of Catholic Athletes for Christ.

The Knights selected Sacred Heart for the coat distribution site and then discovered that one of the Broncos — Defensive End Robert Ayers — had grown up in the neighborhood and attended the school.



A student talks with Defensive Tackle Terrance Knighton after trying on a new winter coat.

The students gathered in the cafeteria for the event and stood as their guests arrived, greeting them with “Good morning, visitors — God bless you!” The school’s choir then sang “You Have to Have Hope” as the special day took on a festive air. *see Broncos, Page 4*

New Survey Finds 84% of Americans Support Significant Abortion Restrictions

This includes nearly 6 in 10 of those who identify as strongly pro-choice

More than four decades after the Supreme Court’s decision in *Roe v. Wade*, the vast majority of Americans are still very uncomfortable with the reality of widespread abortion in the United States.

A new survey of Americans finds strong support for abortion restrictions, including among those who identify as “strongly pro-choice.” Eighty-four percent of Americans would limit abortion to, at most, the first three months of pregnancy, with 58 percent of strongly pro-choice Americans supporting such limits.

The Knights of Columbus/Marist Poll also found that almost three-quarters of Americans (74 percent) favor a ban on abortions after 20 weeks except to save the life of the mother, a majority of Americans (53 percent) believe life begins at conception, and more than 6 in 10 (62 percent) think abortion is morally wrong.

More than 8 in 10 Americans (84 percent) do not see the abortion debate as an all-or-nothing proposition, saying that laws can protect both the well-being of a woman and the life of the unborn.

Other key findings of the survey include:

- 80 percent support parental notification before a minor can obtain an abortion.

- 79 percent support a 24-hour waiting period prior to having an abortion.
- 76 percent oppose allowing abortions to be performed by non-doctors.
- 62 percent want to change laws to allow for some restrictions on abortion.
- 58 percent support showing a woman an ultrasound image of her baby at least a day before an abortion.
- 57 percent believe abortion does a woman more harm than good in the long run.
- 55 percent — including 6 in 10 Millennials (adults 18 to 32) — want continued debate on the abortion issue. *see Survey, Page 2*

Grand Knight Checklist – March

If your council has not yet taken the actions below, do so immediately:

- April 1, application for *Refund Support Vacations Program* (#2863, due between now and June 30).
- Submit *Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728).
- Make sure your council is on the path to earning the Star Council Award.

On a related note, the survey also found that more than 7 in 10 Americans (71 percent) also believe that freedom of religion should be protected above government laws.

“Four decades after *Roe v. Wade*, abortion remains at odds with the conscience and common sense of the American people,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “The American people understand that abortion is bad for everyone, and even those who strongly support abortion want it reduced significantly, so it is time that our lawmakers and our courts reflected this reality.”

This survey of 2,001 adults was conducted Dec. 10, 2013, through Dec. 15, 2013, by The Marist Poll and sponsored by The Knights of Columbus. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Results are statistically significant within ± 2.2 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

For more details about the survey results and methodology visit www.kofc.org/polls.

The Knights of Columbus has worked with the Marist Poll to survey Americans on moral issues since 2008.

2014 National March for Life – Canada

The National March for Life in Canada will be held in Ottawa on Thursday, May 8, 2014, followed in the evening by the annual Rose Dinner. There will be a candlelight prayer vigil the evening before, on Wednesday, May 7, and a Pro-life Youth Conference on Friday, May 9 for those who register. Other prayer services and special Masses at major churches, rallies and other events will also be held in Ottawa during this three-day period.

Other marches and rallies for life will be held in provincial capitals and at various locations throughout Canada on or around those dates.

To order Knights of Columbus “Defend Life” signs to carry in the March, send an email to william.obrien@kofc.org or call 203-752-4403 to provide a name, address, council number, telephone number and the precise number of signs you need in English or French.

For more information on the National March for Life, call the Campaign Life Coalition at 416-204-9749 or 800-730-5358, email clc@campaignlifecoalition.com or visit www.marchforlife.ca.

Knights Join Annual March for Life



On the same day as the release of the newest poll, Knights, young and old alike, were among the participants who braved severe winter conditions to participate in the Jan. 22 March for Life in Washington, D.C. In addition to joining the march itself, members of Georgetown University Council 6375 were also once again instrumental in supporting the Cardinal O'Connor Conference on Life.



Ultrasound Initiative Continues to Save and Change Lives

Through the Order's Ultrasound Initiative more than 425 ultrasound machines have been placed in pregnancy care centers throughout the United States and beyond, with at least one machine placed in all 50 states, Canada and Jamaica.

Pregnancy care center executive directors have written to express their thanks. One wrote: “We cannot thank you enough for our new ultrasound. Wish you were here in the room with us as we see miracles unfold. It has been wonderful. The pictures are so clear. A couple times one of our nurses did an ultrasound where a client was earlier than we thought, and at five weeks she was able to get a clear picture. We love letting the clients hear the heartbeat through the Doppler.”

Through the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative, when a local and/or state council raises funds for at least 50 percent of the cost of a machine for a qualified pregnancy care center, the Supreme Council office provides a matching grant from the Order's Culture of Life Fund for the other 50 percent of the cost of the machine.

Ultrasound Initiative information, including required forms, is available at www.kofc.org/ultrasound.

As an additional incentive for councils to participate in the Ultrasound Initiative, the Supreme Council will count a qualifying Ultrasound Initiative matching grant award as fulfilling all four of the Culture of Life Activities requirements for the Columbian Award.

Contact the Supreme Council's Culture of Life, Marriage and Family Values Office at 203-752-4403 with any Ultrasound Initiative questions you may have.

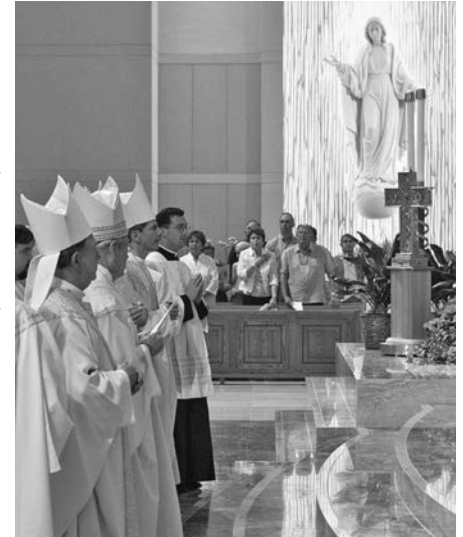


Tips for Better Photos

BE PREPARED: Remember to always have your camera handy — you never know when a good photo will present itself at a Knights of Columbus event.



COMPOSITION: When composing your photo, make sure that there are no distracting items in the background (i.e., a flag appearing to come out of the top of someone’s head) and that the central figures are not in shadows or oddly lit (use your flash if necessary, even outside, and keep in mind its limited range).



SUBMITTING PHOTOS: Generally, newspapers and other media (including the Knights of Columbus publications) will accept photos via email. They should be sent as separately attached jpeg files and not embedded as part of a Word document. Photos that are sent embedded in other files or through a third-party online photo service often cannot be downloaded at a high enough resolution. Images should be at least 5.5 inches wide with a resolution of 300 dpi or greater. The greater the resolution, the better the image will reproduce in print. Be sure to include caption information in the email. Also: **Do not send photos from phone cameras or Polaroids.** Both of these produce photos that are too poor a quality to print well.

HERE ARE SOME OTHER DO’S:



DO...

Take a photograph of your program or items that were purchased using the funds your council raised: children with coats, students using new computers, Knights dishing out food, etc.



AND, DO...

Get close to the action. When you think you’re too close, move a bit closer. People’s faces are perhaps the most interesting part of a photo — they should be prominent.



DO...

Wear your Knights of Columbus gear! If your members have T-shirts, aprons or other items printed with the emblem of the Order, encourage them to wear these items at your events. But don’t send photos with embedded information, such as smaller photos with wording on them (including date and time stamps), or collages of photos.



OTHER TIPS...

Action photos illustrate the activity. Photos of people lined up in rows staring back at the camera are not action photos and do not depict all of the ways the Knights are active in the parish and community. Similarly, photos of check presentations, “grip-and-grins” or the “line up” may be easy to arrange, but are not very imaginative. Show readers how your council is helping people through the funds you’ve worked so hard to raise — don’t show them a signed check. Limit the number of people in each shot and, as we’ve said before, avoid the grip-and-grins. But if you absolutely must, at least make sure the K of C branding is prominent!

Set the Pace by Becoming a Star Council

Triple Star Council Award Now Available

Star Councils set the pace for our Order. Only through growth can a council be successful as they strive to earn Star Council Award status. Recruiting and retaining members is the result of good active, inclusive council programs. As a fraternal leader you should continually review the council and its membership numbers. Did a council make its quota? Did the council conduct programs that included a large percentage of its membership? Is the council in tune with its chaplain? Does the council involve its field agent? How are your programs and activities doing? What do your charitable activity results tell you? The numbers are the report card! They are the results of what was achieved by council programs and activity. The numbers are not the goal; they only tell us how the council has been doing. The better the numbers, generally, the better the programs have connected the members of the council and united them in a common cause. The only way to improve the results is to improve the programs of the council, to include and connect to more members, and to be involved, visible and connected to parish life.

Focus on building a Star Council culture in your council. Programs and activities involve your council members, build enthusiasm and bolster your membership efforts. Programs are opportunities to invite new members into your council.

Now is the time to make sure your council has met all the requirements for the Star Council Award by qualifying for the Father McGivney, Founder's and Columbian awards.

For the first time this year, it is possible to achieve Triple Star Council. The requirements are almost the same as for Star Council, with the difference being that the council achieves 300 percent of the goal in Membership. The 100 percent quota for membership is 7 percent of the current membership or a minimum of four net members. The other requirements remain the same: insurance quota is 2.5 percent or a minimum of three new insurance members; Forms 365, 1728 and SP-7 must be filed; and your council must be in good standing. Many grand knights have stated if the Triple Star Council award existed in the past they would have attained it, so it's certainly a worthy goal to set for your council.

For more detailed information on achieving these awards refer to the *Surge ... with Service* program manual (#962) or the *Grand Knight's Handbook* (#915). To ensure timely processing, all Form 100s must be received, processed and recorded at the Supreme Council before noon EST on June 30 to be counted toward 2013-14 fraternal year quotas. Also, all insurance policies must be issued and released by June 30 in order to count for the 2013-14 fraternal year quotas.



Star Council Incentives

For the fraternal year 2013-14 ending on June 30th, 2014, if your council attains:

- **Star Council:** Council will receive 4,000 VIP points
- **Double Star Council:** Council will receive 8,000 VIP points
- **Triple Star Council:** Council will receive 16,000 VIP points*

These points are in addition to the plaque for the council and the lapel pins for the grand knight, council membership director, and council program director.

*For every level above Triple Star Council, the council will receive an additional 5,000 VIP points.

Broncos, from Page 1

A group of Broncos players and coaches helped the students try on their new coats, with Ayers taking the time to speak to many of the students, school principal Sister Frances Salemi and two of his former teachers.

"I just want them to know that anything is possible," Ayers told the New York Post. "Sometimes when you grow up in places like this area, you may not think there is much more out there. But if you work hard, the sky is the limit for all of us. I'm just one example."

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson applauded the great work being done by the dedicated teachers at Sacred Heart and those members of the Broncos who attended the event. "The dedicated faculty and staff at inner-city Catholic schools like this one make an enormous difference in the lives of their students and help them rise above their often difficult circumstances," said Anderson, who attended the event at Sacred Heart. "Having one of their own return in this fashion, and seeing that people on the national stage care about their problems, also sends a very important message to these children — they are not forgotten."

Difficult circumstances are common for the students at Sacred Heart — most of whom are eligible for the school lunch program. More than 200 of the school's students were given new coats at Tuesday's event.

Launched in 2009, the K of C "Coats for Kids" program has already provided more than 170,000 new coats to children in need. More than 1,200 K of C councils participated in this program in the past year. The Knights and members of the Denver Broncos previously joined forces in October to distribute coats to kids on a snowy day in Denver.

For more information, visit www.KofC.org/coats.



Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and Supreme Warden George Hanna (second row, far left), Daniel Rossi of the K of C Board of Directors (behind the supreme knight) and New Jersey State Deputy Andrew Lipenta join Broncos Defensive Coordinator Jack Del Rio and his wife, Linda; Broncos players and coaches; students; and Knights of Columbus volunteers at a "Coats for Kids" distribution held in New Jersey.



Help Us Get the Word Out About What Our Knights Do

Every day throughout the Order, members of the Knights of Columbus are making a difference. Unfortunately, our good works are sometimes also our best kept secret. We want people throughout the countries where the Order is present to know about the hard work that Knights and their families do to make their communities better places. To help us with this endeavor, we are asking that you give us advance notice (at least one month) of upcoming significant charitable community service programs. These may include aid to senior citizens or families in need, programs for veterans, events with groups that serve people with intellectual disabilities, large blood drives, toy drives for needy children, or any number of unique programs that exemplify the charity and volunteerism that are the hallmarks of the Knights of Columbus.

As always, we encourage you to wear K of C apparel, take photographs and submit “Knights in Action” reports of your activities for publication. (To submit Knights in Action news, visit kofc.org/knightsinaction.)

Meanwhile, if you think your event or program could merit a service program award in one of the six “Surge ... with Service” categories — Church, Family, Culture of Life, Youth, Community or Council — don’t wait until the annual call for entries to let us know. We would like to produce a listing of upcoming events that we can pursue for possible promotion with local media and/or for use as a feature article in one of our publications. Please send a brief description of your upcoming event (one or two sentences describing what took place and the date, location and contact information) to knightline@kofc.org or call 203-752-4264. We look forward to hearing from you.

On January 9, 2014, Charleston, W.Va., experienced a chemical spill into the Elk River which contaminated the water supply for over 300,000 residents. The contamination was so severe that water was unusable for drinking, cooking or bathing for several days. Prior to FEMA arriving on site with water, the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council quickly stepped into action. Knights joined forces and purchased, delivered and distributed over 6,000 bottles of water to the local councils and parishes.



In June of 2013, the St. Joseph Shrine of Yarnell, Ariz., suffered severe damage due to a fire that also caused the death of 19 firefighters and the destruction of several homes. Wishing to take up an initiative that would support both the shrine and the local councils’ sense of fraternity, Yavapai Council 1032 (Prescott), St. Catherine Laboure Council 11827 (Chino Valley), Mary Queen of the Knights Council 8386 (Prescott Valley) and 4th Degree Bishop Green Assembly 13 banded together to host a “Pray it Forward” Christmas party that included food, music and a silent auction. Through their collaborative efforts, \$1,200 dollars was raised for the shrine.

Last year, to encourage council members in their recruiting efforts, New Jersey State Knights held the “Race to the Finish” competition. Vincent T. Lombardi Council 6552 (Middletown) added 18 new members within a period of approximately three months. To show the Order’s appreciation for their efforts, District Deputy William Horton Jr. presented a plaque to the council.

Despite being a small state of approximately 1,600 members, the Knights of Alaska demonstrated a vigorous commitment to a culture of life by raising funds for two ultrasound machines within only three months. The rights of the unborn were further defended Jan. 22 in Juneau when Archbishop Seghers Council 1760, Bishop Kenney Council 11757 and Bishop Crimont Assembly 1992 joined an Alaskans for Life-sponsored march to the capital steps.

A far ways south, also playing a part in the defense of the unborn was Blessed Pope John XXIII Council 13624 of Fort Myers, Flor., which worked alongside fellow parishioners to raise nearly \$23,000 to purchase an ultrasound machine for the Lifeline Family Center in Cape Coral.

The reach and impact of a single council’s intentions to do good can be significant, as proven by Oscar J. Gelpi Council 6872 in Picayune, Miss. The Knights of this council, wishing to collect Christmas presents for children being treated at St. Jude’s, put social media and email to good use and spread the word of their initiative. Hundreds of gifts were collected, even from as far away as New Orleans, La. Also, by participating in their town fair and taking part in other fundraising activities, an additional \$1,300 was raised for the cancer center.

For three years, Holy Name Council 10761 of Marcus, Iowa, has made increasingly generous contributions to the local Community Ministry Food Pantry. Through their “Dad’s Belgian Waffles Breakfast” fundraiser, the council raised \$7,000 in 2013. The donation provides food, snacks for the backpack program, and back-to-school clothing and supplies for the needy families of their community.

Be welcoming, be active, and your numbers will grow and remain faithful to council initiatives. This is the example that Ingleside Council 11570 of Texas has set. Working together and with the encouragement of their chaplain, Father Thomas Wellar, the council recently recruited 17 new members and rekindled the interest of past members who had fallen inactive by renovating their conference room and beginning construction of an adoration chapel for their parish.

Tell Us About Your Outreach Programs

All Knights of Columbus councils are encouraged to take part in the second Orderwide Outreach Week, which will be held March 22-30 in conjunction with Founder’s Day. The Order has many programs in place to help people in need, and this event is a way to coordinate our efforts on an international level. Once your program(s) has been conducted, please let us know about it by sending an email to fraternalservices@kofc.org. We will feature the best programs in the Knights in Action section of *Columbia*, in *Knightline* or on the website.

Short Takes

40 Cans for Lent

Through the Food for Families program the Knights of Columbus is in a position to help fight hunger. “Forty Cans for Lent,” developed in 2010 by Our Lady of Guadalupe Council 8306 in Helotes, Texas, is a self-explanatory program that is easy to conduct. As the title suggests, the goal of the program is to have every council member and parishioner contribute one can of food for each of the 40 days of Lent. The food can then be donated to the parish food pantry or to a community food bank or soup kitchen. As an added incentive to conduct this and other Food for Families programs, the Supreme Council is offering a rebate of \$100 for every \$500 or 500 pounds of food that a council contributes to a food pantry, food bank or soup kitchen. Simply complete the *Food for Families Reimbursement Program Report Form* — found at kofc.org/forms — and return it to Jason Porrello, Food for Families program manager, by June 30. Every council is eligible to receive up to \$500 in rebates through this program.

Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest

Any child age 8-14 is eligible to participate in the Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest. Order item #SA-KIT from www.kofc.org/forms or call 203-752-4625 to get the Contest Kit. Use the included posters to advertise at your parish or local school — the kit has everything you need to administer the contest other than the poster paper (rule books, forms, award certificates, etc.). The council judging usually takes place early in the year, progressing through the district, regional, state and international levels. Talk to your state program or youth director to find out the deadlines in your area. Work with art teachers at any public or private school (not just Catholic). An art teacher may be grateful to have a free “lesson plan” for the day. Make sure you give the teacher contact information for the council so you can collect and judge the posters and pass them up to the next level.

Parish Round Tables

Our Order’s goal is a Knights of Columbus presence in every parish. Our round table program can assist in accomplishing that. If your council serves more than one parish, consider establishing a round table in each. The round table works with the pastor to help meet the needs of that parish. See the *Parish Round Table* booklet (#2632) for details.

Submit Family of the Year and Service Program Entries to Your State Council

If you haven’t done so and your jurisdiction’s deadline hasn’t passed, please submit your Family of the Year entry and Service Program entries to your state council immediately. Do not send these entries to the Supreme Council.

New Council Development

If there is a parish or college in your area that could sustain a Knights of Columbus council, consider helping your district deputy to form a new one. For more information and help in starting new councils, contact your state deputy, your state new council development chairman or the Supreme Council Department of Membership Growth at 203-752-4250.

Fraternal Survey:

Submit Now if You Haven’t Yet

Councils, assemblies and circles should have completed the *2013 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728) and submitted it to the Supreme Council office by Jan. 31. If you have not already done so, please send in your survey immediately. This form is available at kofc.org/forms or in the *Council Reports Forms* booklet (#1436).

Special Olympics Report

The Knights of Columbus has always had a close relationship with Special Olympics. To further track local councils’ involvement, make sure that your council completes the *Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics* (#4584) and submits it to the Supreme Council Office, with copies to the state deputy, district deputy and council’s files. This form is available at kofc.org/forms.

How to Conduct an Open House

An open house provides an opportunity to further introduce your council and the Order to prospects and their families. The main objective is to exhibit the “products” — volunteer service programs, social and fraternal activities, and membership benefits — that your council and the Order have to offer to members and their families.

- Appoint a committee to organize the open house.
- The open house should be held in your council’s meeting place.
- Set a date and time. Publicize the event in local newspapers and church bulletins, and on community websites, the radio and cable television.
- Order quantities of promotional materials, including the *Open House poster* (#2826), from the Supply Department at least six weeks in advance.
- In addition to the prospects from church drives, compile a list of other potential members.
- Send open house invitations to prospects and their spouses.
- Follow up the mailing with a telephone confirmation of receipt and availability to attend events.
- As the event approaches, reconfirm all arrangements for the site, materials, program, etc.
- Arrange for a display of council scrapbooks, awards, programs and activities.
- Assign to each attending prospect a recruiter who will act as a host throughout the event.
- Invite your chaplain/parish priest and insurance agent to your event.

Plan program:

- Form a Welcome Committee to greet guests.
- Ask your chaplain or parish priest to endorse the Knights of Columbus.
- Introduce officers and members.
- Have the grand knight/membership director explain council aims/organization.
- Ask the insurance agent to explain the benefits of membership.
- Show promotional videos (available at kofc.org/films under the “Fraternal” tab):
 - *Haitian Amputee Soccer Team*
 - *Trail of Charity* (tractor cruise)
 - *Pulling for Our Troops* (Wounded Warrior support)
 - K of C Commercials
 - *Hope*
 - *Heroes*
 - *What We Do*
 - *Be the Difference*
 - *Building the Church*
 - *Charity*
- Schedule a question and answer session following the film, further explaining the council and the Order. Conclude with refreshments or a light buffet.
- For those attendees who haven’t already filled out a *Membership Document* (#100), make certain host-recruiters ask prospects to join and assist them in completing it.
- Inform prospects of the First Degree date.



Protect Your Family With Knights of Columbus Insurance

A Founding Vision, A Visionary Founder

“Resolved by this assembly: That Michael J. McGivney, Matthew C. O’Connor, Cornelius J. Driscoll, James J. Mullen, John J. Kerrigan, Daniel Colwell, and William M. Geary, and all other persons now associated with them under the name of the Knights of Columbus, together with all other such person as may hereafter become associated with them, and their successors, are constituted a body corporate and politic by the name of the Knights of Columbus.

“The purpose for which said corporation is formed are the following: (a) of rendering pecuniary aid to its members, their families and beneficiaries of members and their families; (b) of rendering mutual aid and assistance to its sick, disabled and needy members and their families; (c) of promoting social and intellectual intercourse among its members and their families, and (d) of promoting and conducting educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and welfare, and public relief work.”

- Excerpted from the Charter of the Knights of Columbus, Granted by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, Approved March 29, 1882.

As the Connecticut winter drew to a close in March of 1882, few could have imagined that the new Catholic organization just approved by the General Assembly would amount to much.

Secret societies and fraternal organizations were abundant. And besides, Catholics weren’t well-liked or highly thought-of. There was even some Catholic resistance to the idea of the Knights of Columbus. Local priests took issue with the concept. A similar Catholic group even refused to allow Father McGivney to establish a branch of their organization in Connecticut.

It was seemingly inconceivable that an organization, begun in such unwelcoming circumstances, would go on to become one of the world’s largest Catholic fraternal organizations.

It was baffling to think that a group of destitute Irish immigrants, fighting against unemployment, discrimination and diseases in New Haven, Conn., would cause a spark that would light up the world with more than 1.8 million members in more than a dozen countries.

It was so improbable that a group of men dedicated to serving the needs of their Catholic community would go on to donate nearly \$1.5 billion dollars to charitable causes and spend 673 million hours volunteering in just the last decade.

And it seemed so unlikely that a Catholic priest, who spent nearly every waking minute attending to the spiritual and material needs of his parishioners, would be the founder of one of North America’s largest life insurance companies.

Inconceivable? Baffling? Improbable? Unlikely? Perhaps — but not to Father McGivney. And not to the 75 men who dared to answer his call to found the Knights of Columbus. It is his vision — and theirs — that we celebrate each March as “Founder’s Day.”

And what, exactly, did they found? Father McGivney, we know, did not just found a charitable society, but a society of mutual aid through which members would insure their own well-being, and that of their families, with the help of their brother Knights.

Father McGivney, we’re told in *Parish Priest*, began the founding of



the Order and its insurance program with “an entrepreneurial zeal.” Determined to provide financial protection for his parishioners and their families, he “had to delve into the subject of insurance and read all of the fine print, of which there was plenty.”

Before deciding that a new group was in order, Father McGivney researched the finer points of other fraternal benefit organizations’ insurance programs, ultimately concluding that their coverage was insufficient.

And when it came time to crunch the numbers and establish the newly-founded Knights’ insurance program, it was Father McGivney himself who set down the terms and reported them to the members and other parishes in the diocese.

“In the way that Father McGivney had organized the insurance,” *Parish Priest* says, “nearly anyone could afford coverage.”

Father McGivney was devoted to his mission, working tirelessly until his premature death at age 38.

How proud must Father McGivney and his brother Knights be to know that the program he founded continues to provide affordable, quality insurance to Knights and their families?

How proud must they be to know that the Knights of Columbus continues to provide insurance by brother Knights, for brother Knights, protecting Catholic families for generations?

How proud must they be to know that the Knights of Columbus, with over \$92 billion in force and nearly 2 million active contracts, is protecting more Knights than ever before?

Not nearly as proud as we are to call Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney our beloved founder.

This March, let’s make Father McGivney’s priority our own. Let’s continue his mission of protecting Catholic families from destitution and financial ruin by making sure that our families are protected with insurance for brother Knights, by brother Knights. After all, it’s part of what being a Knight is all about.

Happy Founder’s Day!

Find your agent today by visiting kofc.org or by calling 1-800-345-5632.

Knightline

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326



Father McGivney's founding mission was to protect the financial future of members and their families.



132 Years Later,
the Mission Continues



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

LIFE INSURANCE LONG-TERM CARE
DISABILITY INSURANCE ANNUITIES