

Knightline

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

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Pope Meets With Supreme Knight



L'Osservatore Romano



Pope Francis met with Supreme Knight Carl Anderson at the Apostolic Palace on Feb. 16. During this visit, Supreme Knight Anderson discussed the Order's programs, including its Aid to Christians at Risk initiative, and presented the Holy Father with earnings from the Knights' Vicarius Christi Fund, which will support the pope's personal charities and causes. During the visit, Pope Francis examined a copy of a new book (above right) documenting the restoration of an ancient and highly venerated image of the Blessed Mother carried out during the Year of Faith by the Fabbrica di San Pietro with the sponsorship of the Knights of Columbus. It was the first such restoration undertaken during the pontificate of Pope Francis, and the book is dedicated in the Holy Father's honor.

Only 120 Days Left to Become a Star Council

In the December issue we encouraged council and assemblies to take certain steps toward earning the Star Council Award, making sure they qualify for the Columbian, Father McGivney and Founders' awards. Now, as we approach the final quarter of the 2015-2016 fraternal year, the deadlines for meeting the Star Council requirements are fast approaching.

Not sure if you qualify? Follow these steps to find out.

Step 1: The Columbian Award

Review whether your council has conducted and reported at least four major programs in each of the Service Program categories (Church, Community, Council, Culture of Life, Family and Youth). If not, confirm whether your council conducted a single featured program in each category, thereby fulfilling all requirements for that category. Please note: To qualify for the Columbian Award, at least four of your programs must also be designated as Domestic Church activities.



If you haven't yet met these requirements, visit kofc.org/service for ideas on conducting quick, simple projects. Then, submit the *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7) to the Supreme Council office.

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Novena of Grace and Solidarity

Knights and their families are encouraged to pray the following novena, beginning on Sunday, March 12, and concluding on Monday, March 20.

The novena may also be prayed continuously throughout the year.



God our Father, as St. Francis Xavier and countless of your missionaries traveled to the ends of the earth, impelled by the love of Jesus Christ, give me the grace to rely entirely on you, confident in the knowledge that you raise up the humble and the lowly. May I be united with your saints in offering you my humble tribute

of thanksgiving and praise. I implore you to grant me, through your mercy, the blessing of living and dying in a state of grace. I also ask this same blessing for all those throughout the world who suffer persecution because of their faith in you. O God, you were pleased to gather to your Church the peoples of the world by the preaching and miracles of all your saints; mercifully grant that I may imitate their virtues and so bear witness to the Gospel of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Emmy Award-Winning ‘Liberating a Continent’ Available Online



Liberating a Continent: John Paul II and the Fall of Communism, the Emmy award-winning documentary film, is now available for online viewing across multiple digital platforms.

You can now enjoy the film on iTunes, Amazon Video, Google Play, Vudu, Vimeo on Demand and Christian Cinema. Visit jp2film.com/watchonline to view the film now! The film will also be available on Netflix beginning in April.

Narrated by actor Jim Caviezel and featuring original music by renowned composer Joe Kraemer, the film documents St. John Paul II's role in the fall of communist rule in Central and Eastern Europe. It explores how his spiritual leadership ensured a revolution of conscience that was pivotal in Poland's Solidarity movement, which contributed to the collapse of the Iron Curtain in 1989.

For more information, visit jp2film.com.

What Is Your Council Doing This Lent?

This Lent, participate in the Knights of Columbus Food for Families program. The simplest way of doing this is to organize a 40 Cans for Lent program. Set up a collection box in the back of your church or parish hall, and ask parishioners to each contribute at least one can of food in remembrance of one of the 40 days of Lent. Then, just before Easter, your council can deliver the cans to a parish food pantry or community food bank.

Once you donate these cans, don't forget to fill out the *Food for Families Report Form* (#10057). If you properly report your efforts, the Supreme Council will refund \$100 for every 1,000 pounds of food contributed to a parish food pantry, community food bank or soup kitchen — up to a maximum of \$500 per council per fraternal year. This activity also could help your council fulfill all four of the Family Activity requirements for the Columbian Award, putting you on the path to becoming a Star Council.

For more information, contact Natalina Mazzucco at 203-752-4402 or visit kofc.org/community.

Grand Knight's Checklist

- ✓ Complete your council's *Application for Refund Support Vocations Program* (#2863) whenever you have reimbursable activity, but no later than June 30.
- ✓ Submit the Per Capita Tax, Catholic Advertising Fund and Culture of Life Fund assessments.
Remember, failure to pay the assessments prior to April 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
- ✓ Begin preparing the *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7), *Annual Report — Knights of Columbus Round Table* (#2630), *Civic Award Application* (#2321), *Food for Families Reimbursement Program Refund & Plaque Application* (#10057) and the *Application for Refund Support Vocations Program* (#2863), all due no later than June 30.
- ✓ Stay on the path to earning the Star Council Award.

Win a Free Domestic Church Kiosk

If your council recruits at least six new members by March 31, you will qualify to receive a free Domestic Church kiosk and booklet set. Then, if you recruit an additional six members between March 31 and June 30, you will qualify to receive a booklet refill.

Don't think you will have six new members by March 31? Don't worry! If you don't make this deadline but have recruited a total of 12 or more members between Jan. 1 and June 30, 2017, you will still qualify to receive a free Domestic Church kiosk and booklet set.

Ask a prospect to join today!

Offers are valid only for councils and agents in the United States, Canada and Guam.



Why Recruit?

The Order's tomorrow depends on recruitment today!

Guided by the principles of charity, unity and fraternity, the Knights of Columbus is committed to making certain that no person ever goes without food, shelter, warm clothing and financial security, and that aid is always available for widows and orphans in our local communities.

But the Order can't do this alone. It continually needs new members to help strengthen parishes and communities. And we must let qualifying Catholic men know that the Order needs them.

It's a two-way street. When we gain new members, we gain new brothers committed to Father McGivney's cause. And when new members join, they can strengthen their familial relationships, grow in their faith and gain exclusive access to top-quality insurance protection for themselves and for their family.



While some men in your parish know the Order very well, others know very little — like the participants in your parishes' RCIA classes. They are still learning what it really means to be Catholic and what it means to be a Catholic man in today's world. Welcome them to the parish, perhaps by offering Catholic Information Service materials to the entire RCIA class and letting them know they are welcome to contact your council if they have any questions. Then, after they have been brought into full communion with the Church at Easter, welcome them to join you at a Knights of Columbus event.

You should also reach out to the fathers of infants being baptized at your parish. With your pastor's permission, make it a practice of sending cards of congratulations to the parents of newly baptized children. With the card, send them a copy of a prayer card or a CIS booklet, such as *St. Benedict for Busy Parents* (#327). Later, you might offer words of encouragement about the importance of bringing their children to Mass every Sunday. Then, welcome them as a family to one of your council-sponsored family events. While there, you can ask the dad to fill out a *Prospect Card* (#921A).

For more details, visit kofc.org/membership and check out "Recruitment Strategies," located under the membership tab.

Father Invites You to Join

Parish priests are our spiritual leaders, and the Knights of Columbus seeks to support and share a close relationship with them. As part of your council's recruitment strategy, meet with your pastor about the possibility of conducting a "Father Invites You to Join" membership campaign in your parish.

Here are some steps to follow:

First, speak to your pastors about the "Father Invites You to Join" campaign. Explain that the campaign would begin by sending an invitation in his name to prospective members. Let him know that the letter would, of course, include any input he would like to provide. Or, if he is under time constraints, it can follow the format of the invitation found under the "For Members" section of kofc.org.

Second, ask your pastor for a parish membership roster. Using this, a team of five or six Knights — all of whom should be very active members of your parish — should review the roster and highlight any men they would recommend for membership.

Third, using the team's selections, make a list of prospects. Include each prospect's name, address, phone number, email and wife's name, if applicable. Take the prospect list to your priest and ask him to review it and validate each prospect as a practical Catholic. Also, ask him if there are any parishioners he would like to add to the list.

Fourth, schedule an open house. Make sure your pastor, recruitment team, council officers, field agent and several other council members are able to attend on that date.

Fifth, send the prospects a "Father Invites You to Join" letter and an invitation to your open house. In a few days, follow up with a phone call to encourage the prospect to attend.

Finally, conduct the open house. Ask your pastor to invite each prospect to join the Order. Have recruitment team members ready with *Membership Documents* (#100) and pens to assist prospects in signing up or to answer their questions. End the event with a prayer and information on when the next First Degree Exemplification will take place.

Social Media 101: Where to Begin

With more than 80 percent of online adults using social media, it's become a powerful tool for communicating with your members, reaching out to your parish and diocese communities, and recruiting new Catholic men! The ever-changing landscape of social media may seem daunting, but here are three steps to getting started.

Focus on Facebook. Contrary to popular belief, your council doesn't need to be on every social media platform to make an impact. Facebook is the "bread and butter" of the social media world. Of adults ages 18-64 who are online, 81 percent are already using Facebook. Most of your members are probably already on Facebook! If you are new to social media, then Facebook is the perfect place to start.

Know Your Audience. Your council's Facebook Page is not a personal account, but rather, a representation of your council and, in turn, the entire Knights of Columbus. It is also important to note that your Facebook Page is public. Content should be relevant not only to current members but also to potential members, your parish community and other Catholics. Consistent posting about public council events, charitable initiatives, parish activities and Catholic news will increase engagement both online and on the ground.

Comply With K of C's Policies. Because your council page represents the Knights of Columbus, it is very important that it remain a positive forum with communications that reflect our Catholic values and protect the good name of the Order. The Knights of Columbus Social Communications Policy, found in the Officer's Desk Reference on kofc.org, is an essential guide for every council on Facebook!





Support the 20th National March for Life in Canada

The 20th National March for Life in Canada will be held in Ottawa on Thursday, May 11, 2017. This event coincides with the country's celebration of 150 years of confederation. Help make this year's March for Life bigger than ever by chartering buses and inviting your whole council, parish and school! Also, be sure to invite the families of your brother Knights.

To receive materials in time for the event, order *Choose Life* signs (#9341) and other culture of life support materials by calling 203-752-4403 or sending an email to william.obrien@kofc.org. Provide your name, address, council number, telephone number and the number of signs you would like. The signs are available in English and French; please specify language preference when ordering.

For more information on the march — including details about religious services, the Rose Dinner, the Youth Conference and provincial marches planned during this time — visit marchforlife.ca.

Pro-life supporters carry a banner during last year's annual National March for Life on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario.



CNS photo/Art Babych



Sponsor a Warrior to Lourdes



Frédéric Lacaze

Help us support military personnel attending the 2017 Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage, co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus in collaboration with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A.

The pilgrimage offers wounded or ill troops an opportunity for renewal and healing. Please help us give back to those who serve. For each \$2,600 raised, we can cover the travel expenses of one pilgrim.

This is the perfect fundraising opportunity in which to involve your community. With your pastor's permission, insert a brief line in your parish bulletin, asking members of your parish to help. You can also hold a fundraising drive, inviting members of your greater community to share what they can for this great cause!

To donate, visit warriorstolourdes.com.

Star Council, from Page 1

Step 2: The Father McGivney Award

Confirm whether your council has achieved at least 100 percent of its goal in membership. Please note: 100 percent quota for membership equals a 7 percent increase of the council's membership as of July 1, or a minimum of four net members.

If you achieved this, it will qualify you for the Father McGivney Award. The Father McGivney Award will also be presented to councils which achieve 200 percent of membership quota, earning them Double Star status, and to councils which achieve 300 percent of the quota in membership, earning them Triple Star status.

If you haven't met this goal, check out *10 Keys to Membership Recruitment Success* (#10233) and the *Membership Recruitment and Retention Manual* (#10237), available at kofc.org/membership.

Step 3: The Founders' Award

Make sure you have achieved your insurance membership quota as of July 1. Please note: The quota for councils is a 2.5 percent net increase, which equates to a minimum of three new insurance members.

All membership and insurance transactions must be received, processed, recorded and released at the Supreme Council office by June 30. If you have not reached this quota, which qualifies you for the Founders' Award, talk to your insurance agent about ways to garner interest in the insurance program at regular council and parish events.

If you complete the program requirements in the next 120 days, you must report these activities on the *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728) and the *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365) or you will not be eligible to receive any of these awards.

For more information on the requirements, please visit kofc.org/star. For information on the featured programs and their respective categories, review the *Surge...with Service* program manual (#962), available at kofc.org/surge.



BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

While Strengthening Our Parish



“The family as domestic church is central to the work of the new evangelization and to the future sustainability of our parishes.” ~ Supreme Knight Carl Anderson

Featured Program

INTO THE BREACH

There are reports that nearly 14 million Catholics have left the faith and that sacramental Catholic marriages have dropped by 41 percent since the year 2000. These factors, and the many others which have contributed to the growing spiritual battle within the Church, caused Phoenix Bishop Thomas Olmsted to publish his apostolic exhortation *Into the Breach*.

To help this letter reach a wider audience, the Supreme Council has partnered with Bishop Olmsted to release an *Into the Breach* reflection guide.

A new feature of Catholic Information Service's Veritas Series, this guide can help every council promote a discussion of masculinity and courage among the men of their parish. Studying *Into the Breach* opens wide our council doors and invites parishioners to join the Knights of Columbus in strengthening Catholic men and families.

Studying and discussing *Into the Breach* (#340) would be ideal during the Lenten and Easter seasons. The booklet can easily be divided and read over the course of several weeks. Talk with your pastor about holding a weeknight or Saturday morning men's discussion group, perhaps following a previously scheduled Mass or Holy Hour. Be sure to make plans for some refreshments and allow time for men of your parish to socialize.

Hardcopies of Into the Breach (#340) can be obtained by placing an order at knightsgear.com or by contacting Catholic Information Service at 203-752-4267. A digital copy of the booklet is also available online at kofc.org/cis.

Council Reflection

From Pope John Paul II's Familiaris Consortio

There is no family that does not know how selfishness, discord, tension and conflict violently attack and at times mortally wound its own communion: hence there arise the many and varied forms of division in family life. But, at the same time, every family is called by the God of peace to have the joyous and renewing experience of “reconciliation,” that is, communion reestablished, unity restored. In particular, participation in the sacrament of reconciliation and in the banquet of the one Body of Christ offers to the Christian family the grace and the responsibility of overcoming every division and of moving towards the fullness of communion willed by God, responding in this way to the ardent desire of the Lord: “that they may be one.”

Family Prayer Corner

PRAYER BEFORE A CRUCIFIX



Photo by Mallo Falcioni, courtesy of the Fabbrica di San Pietro

Behold, O kind and most sweet Jesus, I cast myself upon my knees in your sight, and with the most fervent desire of my soul I pray and beseech you that you would impress upon my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope and charity, with true repentance for my sins, and a firm purpose of amendment, while with deep affection and grief of soul I ponder within myself and mentally contemplate your five most precious wounds; having before my eyes the words which David in prophecy spoke concerning yourself, O good Jesus: “They have pierced my hands and feet; they have numbered all my bones.”

A plenary indulgence is granted the Christian faithful who, on any Friday during Lent, while observing the ordinary conditions for an indulgence, receive Communion and devoutly recite the above prayer before an image of Jesus Christ crucified. As a spiritual work of mercy, you can offer the indulgence for a soul in purgatory.

Monthly Planning Items

- ✓ Order copies of *The Way of the Cross* (#363) for parish families to use at home this Lent. Copies are available at knightsgear.com. You can also order them by contacting Catholic Information Service at cis@kofc.org or 203-752-4267.
- ✓ Plan a “Simple Supper & Stations” for one of the Fridays of Lent. See the “Featured Program” on page 3 of the February 2017 issue of *Knightline* for details.
- ✓ Include this month's Council Reflection at your next council meeting and in your monthly council communications.



Don't Be Disqualified — Submit Your Service Program Entries Today!

If you haven't yet done so, now is the time to submit your Family of the Year and Service Program entries to your state council using the *State Council Service Program Awards Entry Form* (#STSP). Before sending the entries, confirm that your jurisdiction's deadline hasn't passed. The deadlines occur sometime before your state conventions, which take place April 1-May 29.

When preparing your council's entries, remember that your activity must have been held during the current fraternal year to qualify. Also, only one activity may be submitted per category. Awards are based upon a single project conducted by the council, rather than a series of activities in a particular section of the Service Program.

If you are unsure of the category to which your program belongs, refer to the Service Program chart in the *Surge...with Service* manual (#962), as entries in the wrong category risk being disqualified. Late entries will also be disqualified — the best of programs don't have a chance if received after your jurisdiction's judging has taken place.



When preparing a Service Program entry, be sure to explain the following:

- **Nature of the activity.** Does it demonstrate the objectives of the Service Program?
- **Participation of membership.** How many members participated? What percentage of your council's membership participated?
- **Results.** How did the results affect the Church, community, family, culture of life or youth? Did your council or parish family benefit from sponsoring the project? Is it in line with the Domestic Church requirements?
- **Program originality.** Was the program something new?
- **Committee planning.** How effectively was the program organized? How much detail was involved in staging the event?
- **Delegation of responsibility.** How many members helped plan or volunteer? Were committees formed in order to implement the project?
- **Publicity.** How was the program publicized throughout the area? Through radio and television, local and diocesan newspapers, or council newsletters?

Entry forms may be found at kofc.org/forms. Please send this to your state council. The forms will not be accepted by the Supreme Council.

Time Is Running Out

Councils, assemblies and circles should have completed and submitted the 2016 *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728) to the Supreme Council office by Jan. 31. If you have not already done so, send in your survey before it's too late! The form is available at kofc.org/forms or in the *Council Reports Forms* booklet (#1436).



World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Now is the time to plan activities in advance of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, this year celebrated on May 7.

This day of prayer is the perfect opportunity to explain to prospects and recruits the details of the Order's Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP). Through the program, councils and assemblies "adopt" one or more seminarians or postulants and provide them with financial assistance and moral support. RSVP money is used by seminarians and those in religious formation for tuition and books, car insurance and maintenance, travel during vacations, emergency expenditures and other living expenses. Knights also write letters to the students, sponsor dinners for them and, most importantly, pray for them as they discern the call to religious life.

Qualifying councils and assemblies receive a \$100 refund for every \$500 donated (up to a limit of \$2,000 donated per individual supported). In the Philippines and Mexico, councils and assemblies receive the local equivalent of US\$50 for every US\$250 donated.

For further information and additional materials, please visit kofc.org/vocations.

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.



Protect Your Family With Knights of Columbus Insurance

The Knights of Columbus Guarantees

These days, in the midst of a volatile market and an unsettled economy, there's too much left to chance. In an ideal world, every product would come with clear-cut guarantees that would put you at ease and eliminate the guesswork, or at least some of it.

The reality is that guarantees are hard to come by. But not for the Knights of Columbus.

Here are eight guarantees from the Knights of Columbus that you and your family can count on when you do business with the Knights.

We guarantee the cash value in your whole life insurance.

The beauty of whole life — or permanent — insurance is that it is truly permanent. It's a way to insure your life for life. That's true not only of the death benefit but also of the cash value, which is guaranteed provided that you continue to pay premiums according to the contract.

We guarantee the rates on your level term insurance.

Our level term policies are predictable. Your rates as laid out in your contract will not change. No surprises — just reliable, affordable coverage.

We guarantee a minimum interest rate on your retirement annuity.

Your retirement is not something worth leaving up to chance. A Knights of Columbus annuity can help to remove some of the uncertainty. Your contract includes a guaranteed interest rate that you will continue to earn for the life of the contract. The actual rate you earn may be greater than that — and often is — but it will never be lower.

We guarantee the principal on your retirement annuity.

Not only will the rate on your Knights of Columbus retirement annuity never fall below your guaranteed minimum, the principal in your Knights of Columbus annuity will never decrease, guaranteed. If you put \$10,000 into your annuity, the value in your account — before you begin to withdraw funds — will never drop below \$10,000. If you put \$20,000 in, it will never drop below \$20,000. Quite simply, unless you execute an early surrender or withdrawal, you will never lose money on a Knights of Columbus annuity.

We guarantee an income stream for life.

With a properly structured Knights of Columbus annuity, you can be assured of a guaranteed income stream for as long as you live. Whether you live 5 years, 15 years or 25 years into retirement, by working with your Knights of Columbus field agent, you can be assured that you will have guaranteed income during each of those years.

We guarantee high-quality, professional services.

We're not just an insurance company — we're an insurance company for brother Knights, run by brother Knights. We pride ourselves on the quality of service that we provide to members and their families. Our dedicated, full-time professional agents will be there for you and your family whenever you call on them.

We guarantee not to purchase "junk" bonds or derivatives.

We do not take our brother Knights' financial futures lightly. We invest carefully and make business decisions motivated not by profit or greed, but by service and commitment. Our safety, security and fiscal responsibility are the principle reasons why we have earned A.M. Best's highest financial strength rating, A++ (Superior), for 41 consecutive years.

We guarantee not to invest in companies that deal in abortions, contraception, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, for-profit health care that pays for any of the aforementioned, and pornography.

The Knights of Columbus is Catholic both professionally and fraternally. Our faith informs our work at every level, including the evaluation of each investment we make. Father McGivney wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

The Knights of Columbus should be different than all other insurance companies — and we are. We are looking out for you in a way that no other company can because we're your brothers.

So join the hundreds of thousands of brother Knights who have chosen to help protect their future with the Knights of Columbus. Talk to your agent and see what options are available to you and your family.

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

Correction

The Grand Knight's Checklist in the January issue stated that the *Semiannual Council Audit Report* (#1295) was due Dec. 31.

The audit reports are, in fact, due in August and February.
We apologize for this error.



Calling All District Contest Judges

District/regional judging should have begun for the K of C Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest. State winners must be chosen in early April and submitted to the Supreme Council office by April 30. Then, international winners are announced prior to the close of the school year. For more information on the Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest, visit kofc.org/service.

Knightline

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