

Knighthline

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

APRIL 2017 • Volume 34 • Number 4 • www.kofc.org

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

K of C Donates Nearly \$2 Million to Genocide Survivors



A young Syrian mother who was displaced by violence holds her 2-year-old child outside their tent at an informal settlement in Deir al-Ahmar, in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. (CNS photo by Sam Tarling, CRS)

The Knights of Columbus recently contributed almost \$2 million to various aid programs in the Middle East that have received little to no funding from the U.S. government or international community since ISIS began its genocidal campaign against the region's religious minorities in 2014.

It also launched a 60-second commercial that aired nationally from March 13-17, advocating support for displaced Christians and others.

Spearheading the campaign that led to last year's March 17 genocide declaration by the State Department, the Knights prepared a nearly 300-page report on the extensive crimes being carried out by ISIS and other extremist groups. It was only the second instance in which the U.S. government described an ongoing situation as genocide.

"A year ago, our country declared with one voice that genocide was occurring to Christians and other religious minority communities, but words are not enough," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, in announcing the organization's \$1.9 million in new assistance.

see Genocide, Page 7

Final Quarter to Earn Star Council Award

Even though we are in the final quarter of the 2016-17 fraternal year, there is still time for your council to qualify for the Star Council Award. Answering these five questions may help you earn Star Council status before it's too late.

1. *Do any service program requirements remain unfulfilled?* If yes, visit kofc.org/service for detailed instructions on conducting food drives, RSVP programs, veterans programs, initiatives for people with intellectual disabilities, programs for youth and other activities.
2. *Has your council met its membership quota?* If yes, be sure to recruit some additional members in case you experience an unexpected drop in membership.
3. *If your quota has not been met, have you reviewed your council's list of former members?* If any of the men live locally, contact them to see if they are interested in coming back to the Knights of Columbus. Also, ask your parish priest to make an announcement encouraging all of the parish's eligible men to consider joining the Knights of Columbus.
4. *Have you scheduled any exemplifications to take place before the fraternal year's end?* If you don't have a degree team, utilize the Admission Degree DVD, available via Officers Online.
5. *How close is your council to meeting its insurance quota?* If it has already been met, ask your insurance agent to confirm that you have enough recruits to cover unexpected drops in insurance membership. If your quota has not been met, work with your agent to schedule a fraternal benefits night with the council and give him the opportunity to greet members as they arrive.

'I'm Going to Keep My Baby'

Supreme knight attends blessing and dedication of the newest machine donated through the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative



Nurse Practitioner Darlene Balenger from A Woman's Haven demonstrates the ultrasound machine.

A week prior to the feast of the Annunciation, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson attended the blessing of a mobile ultrasound unit donated to A Woman's Haven, a pro-life pregnancy center in San Antonio. Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio blessed the mobile ultrasound unit.

Since 2009, state and local councils have teamed up with the Supreme Council for the Order's Ultrasound Initiative, funding more than 760 ultrasound machines for pro-life pregnancy care centers throughout all 50 states, Canada, Guatemala, Jamaica and Peru. Recently, the Supreme Council also began offering funding for ultrasound machines used in mobile medical units.

see Ultrasound, Page 6



New Catholics; New Knights

Through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), men and women wishing to become members of the Catholic Church learn about her teachings and traditions.

As they are new to the practical aspects of living the faith, men participating in RCIA could benefit from the experience of the men in your council. By joining the Knights of Columbus at a volunteer project, spiritual formation activity, Bible study or other event, these men will experience firsthand the practical way Knights live as Catholics.

Once the RCIA candidates are accepted into full communion with the Church at Easter, your council should welcome them — first by congratulating them on being part of the family of the Church and then by asking if they would be interested in becoming a brother Knight.

To do this, a grand knight should:

- Ask his pastor for a list of RCIA candidates.
- Ask his pastor to encourage these new Catholics to join the Knights of Columbus.
- Give the RCIA candidate list to his council's membership team, which can then get in touch with candidates individually.
- Sponsor a "Your Brothers Welcome You to the Catholic Family" reception for the men in RCIA. Present the candidates with *Knights of Columbus rosaries* (Rose-1) and prayer books.
- Share Catholic Information Service materials with RCIA candidates and their families.

Use this as an opportunity not only to help them learn more about the faith but also to speak to them about the benefits of membership.



Peter Yang, pictured Feb. 18, 2015, when he was going through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. He became a Catholic that year at the Easter Vigil. (CNS photo by Dianne Towalski, The Catholic Spirit)



One-on-One Recruiting

First steps are the hardest to take, but the first step in recruiting a new member is as easy as asking him to join.

Amazingly, most men haven't joined the Order simply because no Knight ever asked him. Don't let this be the situation with the men in your parish and community. When the opportunity arrives, take the initiative and start a conversation with a potential prospect.

Before beginning such a conversation, be confident that you will be able to answer any questions a prospect might ask. To ensure the best chances of recruiting a new member, let him know that the Knights of Columbus offers a diverse variety of benefits and activities, so there is something to appeal to every man who wants to help his community, parish or family.

Make the conversation personal, letting him know that he will be more than just a number on a membership roster; his personal interests and skills will make him a valuable member of your brotherhood. Try to learn more about him, including his job, parish affiliations and activities, friends he has among present council members, and whether he has a family who would be interested in various Knights of Columbus benefits, service projects, community involvement or social events.

You only get one chance to make a first impression, so make sure you also have these materials and facts ready to share with the prospect:

- Copies of various flyers, including *Protecting Families for Generations* (#10395), *Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit* (#2773), *Family Fraternal Benefits* (#2761) and any other appropriate council publications.
- Details about the Order's insurance program, which can be found at kofc.org/insurance.
- Information about the Knights of Columbus Building the Domestic Church initiative and an explanation of how it helps develop a family's spiritual formation, which can be found at kofc.org/domesticchurch.
- A personal example of how membership has benefited you and your family.

After you share these details and materials, feel free to give him a *Membership Document* (#100) to complete. Then, follow through by escorting him to his First Degree exemplification.

Recruiting on such a personal level helps a potential member understand he is valued as an individual and that membership in the Order can transform his life.

Grand Knight's Checklist

- ✓ Remember these upcoming deadlines:
 - June 30 — *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7), the *Annual Report — Knights of Columbus Round Table* (#2630) and the *Civic Award Application* (#2321)
 - July 1 — *Report of Officers Chosen* (#185)
 - Aug. 1 — *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365)
 - Aug. 15 — *Semiannual Council Audit Report* (#1295)
- ✓ Confirm that your council's Per Capita Tax and Catholic Advertising Fund assessments were sent to the Supreme Council. *Councils that have failed to submit the assessments will be suspended as of April 10.*
- ✓ If you have not already done so, submit the *Application for Refund Support Vocations Program* (#2863) and *Food for Families Reimbursement Program Refund and Plaque Application* (#10057).
- ✓ Verify that you've completed and submitted the *Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728). The form is available at kofc.org/forms or in the *Council Reports Forms booklet* (#1436).
- ✓ Plan your council's Affirmation of Wedding Vows event, to be held the weekend of Father's Day, June 18.
- ✓ Consider who you'll nominate as council officers and program chairmen for next year.
- ✓ Make sure your council is on the path to earning the Star Council Award.



Social Media 101: We're Here to Help

Did you know it has already been one year since *Knightline* began running the Social Media 101 articles? After 12 months of revealing social media tips, we've compiled those articles — along with some additional resources — into a single PDF for your council's reference.

Our *Social Media 101 Guide* includes all the tips and tricks we've been sharing monthly in *Knightline*. You will also find links to reliable Catholic content, a guide to using the official K of C logo and emblem, resources for developing a brand voice consistent with the Supreme Council, and the entirety of the Knights of Columbus Social Communications Policy, which is the backbone of every successful K of C Council Facebook Page.

If you'd like to receive a *Social Media 101 Guide*, please send an email to socialmedia@kofc.org. In the email, be sure to include your council name, number and location, as well as links to your council's social media pages.

The Supreme Council Social Media Team is also here to help councils looking to begin a Facebook Page. Feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns. Do you have an idea for our next Social Media 101 column? Let us know!

And, of course, continue to follow the Knights of Columbus on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn and Google+.



Domestic Church Requirement for Columbian Award

To qualify for the Columbian Award — and ultimately the Star Council Award — councils must conduct and report to the Supreme Council a minimum of 24 programs (four in each of the six Service Program categories). For the 2016-2017 fraternal year, a minimum of four of your programs must be designated as Domestic Church activities. Visit kofc.org/domesticchurch for a listing of Domestic Church-designated programs.

Concerned about your ability to meet this requirement before the end of the fraternal year? Conduct one or more of the following programs between now and June 30:

- 5th Sunday Rosary — Although the final fifth Sunday of the fraternal year falls on April 30, any council-sponsored rosary service held before June 30 will fulfill this requirement.
- Affirmation of Wedding Vows — Work with your pastor and/or council chaplain to plan an Affirmation of Wedding Vows event on Father's Day, June 18.
- Food for Families — Collect and donate money or food to a parish food pantry or community food bank, or prepare and serve a meal at a local soup kitchen.
- *Into the Breach* (#340) — Read and discuss with the men of the council and parish this remarkable document by Bishop Thomas Olmstead of Phoenix. The copy published by Catholic Information Service includes a reflection guide that can be used to promote discussion.
- *The Family Fully Alive* (#10162) — This program is designed to help families place God and the Catholic faith at the center of their lives through meditations, family projects, Scripture and more. Councils should speak with their pastors about the program and remind them that families can participate at no cost to the parish. *The Family Fully Alive* can be used as a devotional for all families throughout the liturgical year, and all of the program's resources are available at kofc.org/familyfullyalive. A hard copy can be ordered through KnightsGear.
- Building the Domestic Church Series/Kiosks — Order a kiosk and set of booklets to display in your church hall or council meeting place.

The programs listed do not represent an exhaustive list of those that would fulfill the Domestic Church requirement for the Columbian Award. Many homegrown programs may also qualify. To confirm whether one or more of your council programs would qualify, contact the Fraternal Mission Department at 203-752-4270 or fraternalmission@kofc.org.

Reporting Your Members — Now Easier Than Ever!

Reporting your council officers and service program personnel is now easier than ever when you use the Member Management application available in the secure area of the Order's website. The secured area of the site will be available to all grand knights and financial secretaries, allowing them to submit their important council information in a fast, easy online process.

We encourage you to use Member Management to report your new leaders as soon as your council's election and appointments are completed. You should also report any changes as they occur during the fraternal year. You can report these changes on the Council Officers page of Member Management's Service Program Personnel section. Once updated in Member Management, the Supreme Council's record will reflect your changes.

Additionally, your members' contact information — email addresses, home addresses and phone numbers — can be maintain and updated through Member Management. To ensure the most accurate information is on file for all your members, we ask that you take a moment today to update your council's records.

If you do not have access to Member Management, you can update your council's information by printing and submitting the forms found at kofc.org/forms.

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.



Choose Life in Canada

We invite all Knights in Canada to take part in the 20th National March for Life in Ottawa, or other pro-life events throughout the country, on Thursday, May 11, 2017. Coinciding with the country's celebration of 150 years of confederation, this event is a great opportunity to show the world that the people of Canada believe in protecting life at all stages, from conception until natural death.

To receive materials in time for the event, order *Choose Life signs* (#9341) and other culture of life materials today! To order, call 203-752-4403 or email william.obrien@kofc.org. Be sure to 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, visit marchforlife.ca.



(Photo by Andre Forget)



Wheelchair Sunday



A row of wheelchairs just before a distribution in Mexico City, Feb. 22, 2016. (Photo by Randy Hall)

The Global Wheelchair Mission, a partnership of the American Wheelchair Mission and the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation, changes the lives of children and adults each day.

You can help by organizing a “Wheelchair Sunday” parish drive. When conducting your drive, share information about the Global Wheelchair Mission, indicating the countries where wheelchairs have been sent. During the drive, have copies of *Did You Know?* (#1267) and other appropriate council publications for interested prospects.

A Wheelchair Sunday may help your council meet the Community Activities requirements for the Columbian Award. For details, visit kofc.org/wheelchair.

For more information on the Global Wheelchair Mission, contact:

American Wheelchair Mission
2600 E. Seltice Way #A172
Post Falls, ID 83854
www.amwheelchair.org

Canadian Wheelchair Foundation
P.O. Box 75038
RPO White Rock Surrey, BC V4A 0B1
www.cdnwheelchair.ca



Want to Organize an Effective Food Drive?

Since 2012, the Knights of Columbus has donated more than \$8.5 million and 14.7 million pounds of food to local food pantries, community food banks and soup kitchens.

But how can your council get started on such a large project?

When planning its Food for Families drives, Deacon Douglas R. Sliger Council 16127 at Hill Air Force Base in Utah began with small steps that led to big results. The council, led by Grand Knight Richard Wood, first contacted the local base commissary, which agreed to set aside products nearing their expiration date or those in bent, torn or crushed packaging. Then, divided into three to four dedicated teams of two to three Knights each, the available council members and their wives volunteered alternating weeks to collect these donations, which averaged between 100 to 400 pounds per week. Finally, they delivered the goods to the nearby St. Anne's Center, a soup kitchen founded by the council's namesake, Deacon Douglas R. Sliger, an Air Force pilot with 22 years of active military service who also served as a deacon in the Church.

To host a similar drive, follow these steps:

- Contact your local parish food pantry, community food bank or soup kitchen to ensure they will be able to receive food donations. Be sure to also inquire if they have any specific needs.
- Obtain permission from the appropriate persons (pastors, store owners, etc.) to set up the food drive at your church or nearby store.
- Ask nearby retail stores for empty boxes you can use for collections.
- Distribute flyers announcing the details of the food drive at your parish and local store.
- Ask the pastor for permission to make an announcement about the food drive. Be sure to include a written announcement in the parish bulletin. For monetary donations, be sure to have a secure receptacle in the collection area for cash and checks.

For more information, visit kofc.org/community.



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

FATHER'S DAY AFFIRMATION OF WEDDING VOWS

Councils should partner with their parishes in sponsoring a Father's Day Affirmation of Wedding Vows during or immediately following all Masses celebrated the weekend of Father's Day, June 18. During these events, Knights and their wives — along with all the married couples of the parish — will have an opportunity to affirm their commitment to their marriage vows and bear witness to the importance of Christian marriage as the building block for strong families and parishes.

After the event, councils should host a reception to thank each couple for their witness to marriage. Some councils may wish to hold a brunch or supply simple light refreshments; others may wish to supply wedding cake in honor of the ceremony.

When planning the event, ask your pastor what time the Masses will be held that weekend and if he is able to provide a brief catechesis to the parish, explaining the Catholic understanding of marriage and the strength of the sacramental bond.

You should begin advertising the event by the end of May, ensuring several weeks of promotion before June 18. Also, make sure there is a pulpit announcement the day of the event inviting all married couples to participate.

Resources for the event, including the *Affirmation of Wedding Vows* booklet (#30003), are available at kofc.org/fathersday. You might also distribute *The Gift of Fatherhood* (#10168), *Knights of Columbus rosaries* (Rose-1) or other CIS resources for families to use together.

Councils can list the *Father's Day Affirmation of Wedding Vows* as a Family program and Domestic Church activity on their Columbian Award Application (SP-7). Additional Domestic Church resources are available to order at knightsgear.com.

Monthly Planning Items

- ✓ Mark your calendars for K of C Family Week and discuss potential activities with your pastor. For ideas, check out the Family Week Celebrations link listed under Programs at kofc.org/domesticchurch.
- ✓ Order copies of *Into the Breach* (#340) now while supplies last. This is the most popular CIS book of the year and will make a great Lent and Easter reflection for all men. See the Featured Program in the March 2017 issue of *Knightline* for further program details.
- ✓ Include reflections, family activities and other details from *The Family Fully Alive* (#10162) in your council's monthly email or newsletter. For easy viewing, the booklet is accessible by month at kofc.org/familyfullyalive. There, you can also access a digital copy of the complete booklet.

Council Reflection

by Father Luis Granados, DJCM

THE FAMILY — A SCHOOL OF FORGIVENESS

The family is the first place where we learn to forgive. Our parents teach us to say: “I am sorry. Forgive me.”

As part of this school of forgiveness, in the family we learn the Our Father. When our parents repeat with us “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,” they teach us the prayer of Jesus not just with their words, but especially with their own forgiving love.

In order to forgive, we need to pray the Our Father. To forgive means to really offer a new beginning. Therefore, we can only forgive each other with the grace of God, the Lord of Mercy. We see now one of the fruits of family prayer; the family that prays together will stay together because it will be able to forgive.

As our first school of forgiveness, we see the family is essential for the building of human society. As Benedict XVI said, the family “is fruitful for society because family life is the first and irreplaceable school of social virtues” (Homily, June 3, 2012). We witness the joy of so many families who point out the paths for growing in love by being patient with the failings of others, by being able to forgive and seek forgiveness, and by overcoming with intelligence and humility any conflicts that may arise.

This excerpt originally appeared in the January 2015 issue of the Knights of Columbus Chaplain's Report.

The complete issue may be found at kofc.org/chaplains.

Family Prayer Corner

REGINA CAELI

Traditionally, the Regina Caeli is recited three times a day (morning, noon and evening) during the Easter season. Encourage your members to offer this prayer before the traditional Grace Before Meals or to incorporate it into their evening family prayer time.

V/ Queen of Heaven; rejoice, alleluia.

R/ For he whom thou didst to merit to bear, alleluia.

V/ Has risen as he said, alleluia.

R/ Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V/ Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R/ Because the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

V/ Let us pray.

R/ O God, who through the resurrection of thy son, our Lord Jesus Christ, deigned to gladden the world: grant, we beseech thee, that through the Virgin Mary, his mother, we may attain the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



Planning Your Day of Prayer for Vocations

What should your council do to observe the World Day of Prayer for Vocations on May 7?

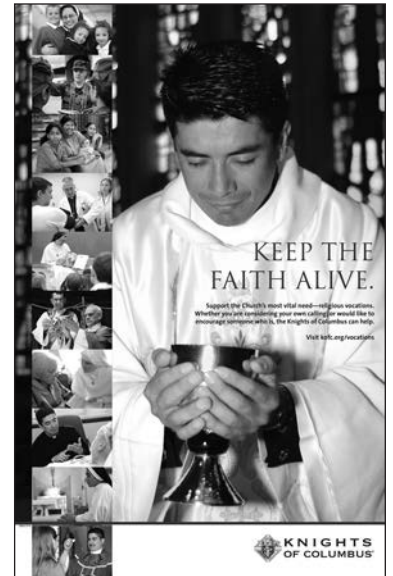
This year, the Supreme Council will not be sending out a vocations packet to all grand knights. Instead, we ask that each grand knight work directly with his council's vocations chairman to order the necessary materials from the Supply Department. He should then talk with his pastor to plan a successful vocations program. This program can be simple or ambitious, depending on your resources, manpower and pastor's approval.

We recommend that all councils order the *Vocations Poster* (#2959). This poster should be placed in a prominent spot in your church to spread the message about the need for vocations. Ideally, after all Masses celebrated on the weekend of May 6-7, your council would distribute the *Vocations Prayer Card* (#1874) and the booklet on Father McGivney, *Model for Our Times* (#5044). If possible, during the weekend display handouts on a small table. Also set up a laptop and have it play the inspirational DVD *Everyone Has a Vocation to Love — What's Yours?* (#50046). You can have this DVD play continuously during the drive. All available materials are listed on the *Vocations Order Form* (#4343), which is available from the Supply Department. The form can also be downloaded from the web address listed below.

In addition, invite a local seminarian or religious postulant to speak about their own vocation. Work with your pastor on planning this talk, or simply have the seminarian or religious stand by your table to meet parishioners and answer questions.

We also recommend that every grand knight discuss the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) with his pastor. Qualifying councils and assemblies who support RSVP will 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 more information, visit kofc.org/vocations.



Before Volunteering With Youth, Be Sure to Meet These Requirements

Members are expected to comply with all necessary and applicable diocesan safe environment requirements to participate in youth activities on parish property.

Members should contact their parish safe environment representative or diocesan safe environment coordinator to find out which diocesan safe environment requirements apply to the programs, activities and events sponsored by the council on parish property.

Additionally, the grand knight and the youth director of every Knights of Columbus council must complete all requirements of the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program. All grand knights and youth directors are required to take online training shortly after accepting their leadership positions. To participate in this training, follow the information included in the email invitation sent from our partner in youth protection, Praesidium. If a grand knight or youth director has not provided an email address to the Supreme Council, login instructions will be sent to him by mail.

Youth directors are also required to undergo a background check because they are responsible for coordinating council youth activities. Praesidium will send an email requesting authorization to perform this background check. Within 30 days of receiving this request, each youth director must give his consent to Praesidium, authorizing the background check.

This training and background check must be renewed every two years for as long as members remain in either of these two roles.

Please email questions to the Office of Youth Protection at youthleader@kofc.org or 203-800-4940.

Ultrasound, from Page 1

The donation for the ultrasound unit was arranged by St. Mark the Evangelist Council 7613 in San Antonio, alongside the fundraising efforts of councils 2618, 4183, 8521 and 11599. Meanwhile, encouraged by this program, A Woman's Haven raised the money to purchase a Save the Storks mobile ultrasound van.

Eddie Perez, president of A Woman's Haven and member of St. Joseph's at Honey Creek Council 8521 in Bulverde, said, "Because of this mobile pregnancy center, we anticipate that the number of women we serve will grow to approximately 2,000 ... on a yearly basis."

Attending the ceremony with Supreme Knight Anderson and Archbishop Garcia-Siller were Supreme Director Javier Martinez, Texas State Deputy Douglas Oldmixon, General Agent Steve Michlik of the Michlik Agency and San Antonio Diocesan Deputy Derek Rabey.

Darlene Balenger, a nurse practitioner at A Woman's Haven, told Mr. Anderson that the new machine has already saved a life.

"She told me that the first pregnant woman to use the machine had said her mind was made up — she was going to have an abortion," Supreme Knight Anderson related. "But then she had the ultrasound, and as she watched the screen, she looked up at the nurse and said, 'I'm going to keep my baby.'"

The supreme knight added, "We conservatively estimate that these machines will save the lives of at least 100,000 unborn children this year alone. And these machines will go on saving lives for years to come."

For more information on the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative, please visit kofc.org/ultrasound. To financially support this initiative and other pro-life causes, visit kofc.org/prolife.



Protect Your Family With Knights of Columbus Insurance

The Catholic Difference

What does a Catholic life insurance company look like?

It's an important question to ask. As you consider all the options for your family's life insurance and financial services, you might wonder if any of them are actually unique. After all, every life insurance company sells life insurance.

But the Knights of Columbus is, in fact, unlike any other company. We do things differently — because both our faith and our members demand it.

We call it the Catholic difference. Here are a few of the things that make us unique:

- **We invest morally.** The Knights of Columbus screens all of its investments according to guidelines published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We will not invest in companies that deal in abortions, pornography, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning and related endeavors.
- **We support the Church.** Last fraternal year, the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council and local councils together donated \$48 million to the Church. The Order gives generously through various programs such as the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP), which, in partnership with our councils, has provided more than \$67 million in scholarships to more than 110,000 men and women pursuing religious vocations since 1981. The Knights also helped to restore the facade of St. Peter's Basilica in 1999 for the Millennium Jubilee and purchased satellite equipment that has since broadcasted the recent popes' messages to the world. The Order's aid to the Vatican and the pope is ongoing, with an annual donation from the proceeds of the Vicarius Christi fund given to the Holy Father for his personal charities.
- **We put our Catholic families first.** We are not a commercial company. We have no stockholders. We answer only to our members. We return a share of our profits through dividends to our participating policyholders, and we donate generously.
- **We have given more than \$1.55 billion to charity in the last decade.** Most of these funds are generated by proceeds from our insurance business. The proceeds have gone to causes such as pro-life initiatives, disaster relief or aid to persecuted Christians in the Middle East — wherever help is needed most.
- **We put ethics first.** Our corporate commitment to ethics and our ethical business practices have been applauded by the business community. Recently, the Ethisphere Institute named the Knights of Columbus a "World's Most Ethical Company" for the third consecutive year. We are currently one of only two companies to have earned the designation in the "life insurance" category.

Our members, their spouses and their dependent children have exclusive access to our insurance program. Working with your brother Knight field agent, you can purchase top-quality products to protect your family's future, all while knowing that you are supporting an organization that shares your faith, your beliefs and your values.

More than 130 years after our venerable founder, Father Michael J. McGivney, set our insurance program in motion, we strive to stay true to his mission and our commitment to our members and our Catholic difference.

Other companies may come along and try to convince you that they are just like us. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. But on closer examination, you will find what you always suspected: There is only one Knights of Columbus. We'll be happy to get to know you better and show you that being Catholic always makes a difference.

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

Genocide, from Page 1

The Knights' contributions included:

- \$650,000 to medical clinics in Iraq
- \$750,000 to the Catholic Archdiocese of Erbil, Iraq, for Easter food baskets and other resources
- \$300,000 to the Catholic Archdiocese of Aleppo, Syria, for general relief
- \$200,000 to the Catholic community in Syria
- \$75,000 to the Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt to aid the families of victims of December's church bombing in Cairo

But more help is needed to ensure the future of Christians in the Middle East. Calling for aid from the U.S. government and the international community, the supreme knight said 2017 may be "the decisive year in determining whether many Christian communities throughout the Middle East will continue to exist."

He added: "Those targeted for genocide continue to need our assistance, especially since many have received no funding from the U.S. government or from the U.N. The new administration should rectify the policies it found in place and stop the *de facto* discrimination that is continuing to endanger these communities targeted by ISIS for genocide."

He also encouraged prayers for those who are being persecuted and killed for their faith, particularly recommending the Novena of Grace and Solidarity that can be prayed throughout the year.

The novena prayer can be found at kofc.org/novena. For details on how you can contribute to the Order's efforts to help genocide survivors, visit christiansatrisk.com.

Important: Change to Election Date

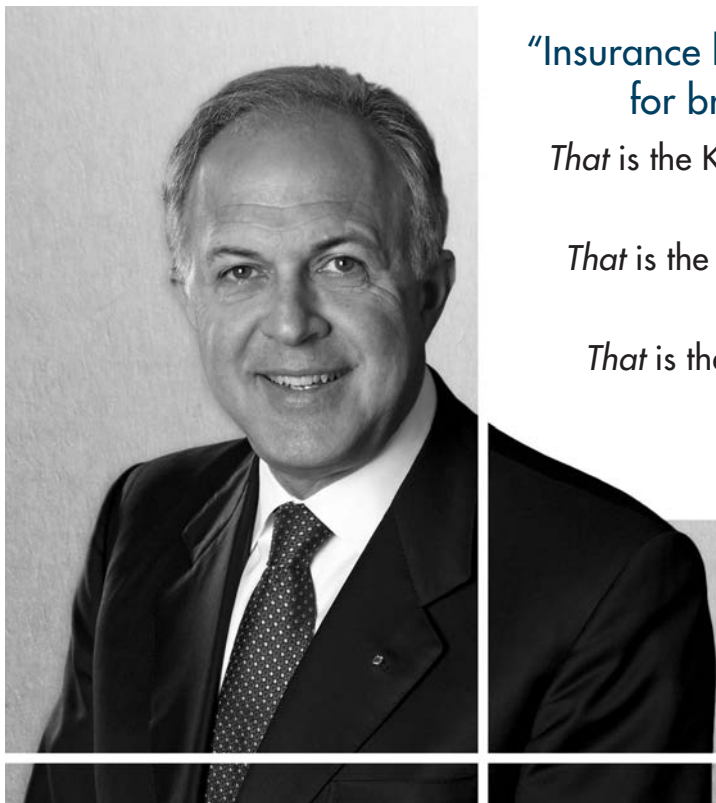
Council officer elections and program chairmen/director appointments are a very important task, because the outcome of the elections will determine your council's future and the future of the Order.

Elections and appointments may take place from May 1 through June 15, 2017. Please contact your district deputy for guidance and direction in this very important endeavor.

Knightline

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

1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326



*“Insurance by brother Knights,
for brother Knights.*

*That is the Knights of Columbus
promise.*

*That is the Knights of Columbus
difference.*

*That is the Knights of Columbus
advantage.”*

Carl Anderson
Supreme Knight



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
Making a difference for life.



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

Trust the Knights of Columbus
to help protect your family's future.

LIFE INSURANCE

DISABILITY INSURANCE

LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE

ANNUITIES