



KNIGHTLINE

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NEWS FOR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LEADERS

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Addressing the Future

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson renewed a call to recruit younger members to the Knights of Columbus, saying the Order's future is at stake.

"This Order was started by a 30-year-old," Anderson said at the Midyear Membership Meeting of State Deputies in Washington, D.C., Nov.17-19, 2017. "And you know, I have to believe that Michael McGivney was not the only 30-year-old who can make a contribution to the Knights of Columbus. That's why we are putting so much emphasis on bringing young men in. For the future of the Order we have to."

The midyear meeting brought together state deputies and others from 71 jurisdictions who participated in workshops

and attended addresses from the supreme knight and Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori.

In his address on Saturday, Anderson laid out a bold vision of using technology and innovative approaches to attracting new members. The centerpiece of this is the online membership initiative that is being rolled out gradually across the U.S. This program allows men to join the Order online, with the goal of eventually bringing them into traditional councils through the degree process.

The supreme knight explained the necessity of such a program, saying that the Order must open up opportunities for such men

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Grand Knight's Checklist – December & January

- ✓ Participate in your council's Christmas activities, such as an Advent celebration for the community, the Orderwide Keep Christ in Christmas initiative, Coats for Kids distributions and Food for Families holiday events.
- ✓ Conduct a First Degree before Christmas.
- ✓ Begin planning your council's participation in a council church drive (March 10-11), the Orderwide Outreach Week in honor of Father McGivney (March 12-18), the Council First Degree Week (March 19-25) and Founder's Day (March 29).
- ✓ Confirm that your council and jurisdiction remains compliant with the Office of Youth Protection's requirements for all activities.
- ✓ Remember these upcoming dates:
 - Dec. 1 — Distribute the *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity Individual Member Worksheet* (#1728A) to members.
 - Jan. 1 — Council Per Capita Tax, Catholic Advertising Fund and Culture of Life Fund assessments levied by the Supreme Council.
 - Jan. 31 — *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728), *Partnership With Special Olympics Profile* (#4584), *Free Throw Championship Participation Form* (FT-1), *Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest Participation Form* (#4001) and *Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest Participation Form* (#4216) due.

Pence Pledges Aid to Christians

*While praising the K of C for its Christian relief efforts,
Vice President Pence promises direct U.S. aid to Christians*



White House photo

Singling out the Knights of Columbus for their “extraordinary work caring for the persecuted around the world,” Vice President Mike Pence promised direct U.S. government aid to faith-based groups serving Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East.

Previously, this aid was given directly to the United Nations for distribution in the troubled region, but on Oct. 25, at the fourth annual In Defense of Christians Solidarity Dinner, Pence shared that this process has been ineffective and will be changed.

The news is a milestone for the Knights of Columbus. As Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said in his introduction of the vice president, “There has never been a more righteous cause than the defense of those helpless ones being led to slaughter.”

In Defense of Christians is a nonprofit, nonpartisan human rights advocacy group based in Washington. The dinner was part of a multi-day summit that included meetings about issues in the Middle East. Among the attendees were elected officials, bishops, priests and prelates from the U.S. and throughout the Middle East.

Supreme Knight Receives Medal From Archdiocese for the Military Services

On behalf of the Knights, Supreme Knight Anderson honored at Saint John Paul II National Shrine

The Archdiocese for the Military Services presented Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and his wife, Dorian, with its highest honor Nov. 18, 2017. Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio presented the medal at the ninth annual benefit for the military archdiocese at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine.

The medal recognizes an individual’s contributions to the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS) religious programs.

In a Sept. 21 letter to Mr. Anderson, Archbishop Broglio explained why Supreme Knight Anderson was selected to receive the medal this year:

“I am grateful to you and the Knights of Columbus for your continued and generous support, without which the AMS would not have been able to finance the flourishing Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program. I am pleased to report that this fall the AMS will have 42 co-sponsored seminarians representing 26 dioceses and studying in 19 seminaries across the U.S. There is no other program like the AMS Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program, and there is no other partnership like that between the AMS and the Knights of Columbus.”



*Archbishop Broglio presents AMS award
to Supreme Knight Carl Anderson.*

Knights Honored With Grato Animo Award

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and the Knights of Columbus were honored with the Grato Animo Award for their efforts to assist the Christian community in the Holy Land and the surrounding region. They received the award during the annual benefit for the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America on Nov. 11.

The award was presented by Franciscan Father Francesco Patton, a member of the same order of friars that has served in the Holy Land for 800 years.

They serve in 29 parishes throughout Israel, Palestine and other regions; operate schools; and help provide housing, employment assistance, social services and emergency relief. They also welcome more than 1 million pilgrims annually to various Christian shrines, a ministry they have done since 1342. The friars also have a monastery in Washington, D.C, which houses full-size replicas of Holy Land shrines, churches and contemplative gardens. For information, visit <https://myfranciscan.org/>.

Don't Leave Prospects Out in the Cold: Welcome Them at Your Christmas Events

As we get closer to Christmas and New Year's, don't forget that all your council's Christmas events should welcome men to engage in charity and spread the Faith. Whether your event is a Journey to the Inn Celebration, a Christmas tree lighting, a toy drive or a food collection, the event will likely include young dads and other active men of your parish. Go out of your way to greet them and thank them for attending the event. A simple welcome can go a long way!

As always, be sure to display Knights of Columbus promotional materials, such as *Columbia* and the *Going to the Periphery* flyer (#10521), and other items of interest at every holiday event. Schedule these events at a time convenient to the majority of your members — as you know from experience, low attendance by council members could actually discourage men from joining. Finally, welcome all attendees to participate in your council's next scheduled volunteer effort.

For more information on membership recruitment, go to kofc.org/membership.



Giving the Gift of Knighthood

When you speak to new prospects at your council's upcoming Christmas and New Year's events, what benefits should you mention?



By joining the Knights of Columbus, a man and his family receive many gifts: a free subscription to *Columbia Magazine*, which shares topics of interest to Knights, Catholics and families; a **Knights of Columbus rosary** blessed by the supreme chaplain; access to exclusive **affordable life insurance products**; and participation in a variety of **programs and activities for the whole family!**

In addition, he receives **priceless immeasurable benefits**: the chance to make a difference in the community through the council's good works; the encouragement and support needed to be a faithful Catholic in today's world; and the opportunity of being in an organization of like-minded men that **together make a difference** throughout the world.

Future, from Page 1

in order that "they can invest in a solid insurance program that's going to protect their families; that they can get the spiritual formation and the spiritual strength that's going to help them lead their families."

"We owe it to them to open up the brotherhood of Catholic men who will be there to help them and who they can help by their service," he said. "We owe it to them to open up for their membership an organization that's effective in solving problems in their neighborhoods. So, we have a mission."

As part of the strategy to attract younger men, the Order announced plans earlier this year to phase out the decades-old Fourth Degree regalia in favor of a more modern look. Demand for the new uniform has since created a backlog. As a result, the deadline for using the new regalia is being extended by one year to June 30, 2019.

"Knight Before Christmas" Recruiting Challenge

"While only God knows for sure, recruiting someone may very well be a factor in saving that man's soul and, at the very least, it is a form of evangelization. The road of life is bumpy, and if being a Knight keeps him closer to his faith, that is profound."

– Brother Knight Wally Streit
Father Bonner Council 7599
Edmonton, Alberta

Recruiting is not just about numbers; it's about helping each other, and our families, grow closer to Christ. This Christmas, we challenge each Knight to welcome at least one new member before Dec. 31. End the year in the way you should — by sharing the gift of faith!

The Knights of Columbus will also be keeping the Star Council rebate for per capita program for councils located in insurance territories (United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Guam). If a council in these areas earns the Star Council Award (at any level) in the 2017-18 fraternal year, it will receive a credit of \$4.50 (\$3.50 per capita and \$1 Catholic Advertising) for each billable member on its roster as of July 1, 2018.

As Supreme Knight Anderson shared, "What helps with this program is the fact that we're pushing excellence. It's not just same old same old. Let's do better this year. Let's work a little harder. Let's achieve a little more. ... The way to do it is the Star Council program. It's not the solution for everything, but it is an important step in a healthy jurisdiction and a growing jurisdiction."

Thank You for Your Charity and Prayers

Because of your help, an amazing thing has happened: Awareness about religious persecution in the Middle East is spreading. This is largely in part to your councils' efforts, whether by organizing a prayer service, hosting a fundraising drive or distributing various informational materials. Thank you.

We ask you to continue to be a voice for Christians and other religious minorities. Let us not be silent until all these people are free to return home, free to pursue their studies, work, pastoral activities and a Christian life in peace. For more information, visit christiansatrisk.org.

Global Wheelchair Mission: Time to Get Rolling

Have you ever been involved in a wheelchair donation? If not, start by appointing a Global Wheelchair Mission chairman. He should reach out to your state council to learn of statewide activities and then determine an annual goal for your council's fundraising efforts. Whether aiming for a specific dollar amount or number of wheelchairs, all donations should be contributed to the Global Wheelchair Mission. For more details on how your council can bring the gift of mobility to people around the world, visit kofc.org/wheelchair.



Supporting the Future of the Church

This past November we celebrated Vocation Awareness Week, asking prayers for young men and women as they discern God's plan for their lives. Our website featured various vocation stories, including that of Father Ryan C. Boyle: "I flew cargo planes all over the world, including combat sorties into Iraq and Afghanistan. But I knew that the Lord was calling me to soar even higher. ... After many hours of prayer — often while flying at 35,000 feet — and encouragement from priests and friends, I decided to trade in the flight deck for the altar." Father Boyle's story reminds us that God calls people from all walks of life to incredibly new experiences.

Help us support such vocations through the Knights of Columbus Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP). Visit kofc.org/vocations for details.

Habitat for Humanity: A Ministry to Support

Founded in 1976, Habitat for Humanity is a worldwide ecumenical Christian housing ministry that builds and repairs homes for millions of people. They don't simply give away houses; future homeowners work with the volunteer builders and then pay monthly mortgage payments, with zero percent interest. If you want to make a difference in the lives of these families, visit habitat.org. Be sure to list your volunteer efforts on the *Habitat for Humanity Report Form* (#10092) and the *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728).



Founder's Day – An Opportunity to Witness

Throughout the years, we've asked our councils to celebrate the charter anniversary of the Order on March 29. Councils have marked the occasion in different and varying ways, but because this year the anniversary falls on Holy Thursday, we ask that Knights consider Founder's Day an opportunity to combine the joy of Knighthood with the joy of being Catholic.

What would this look like? First, as Catholics, we need to set the example of people working for holiness. As Knights, we need to be practical and devout Catholic men, whether as fathers, husbands or single lay men. Essentially this come down to one thing: to be a faithful witness, to act as Christ to people in need.

So, on this Founder's Day, go out and witness to your community. Be a brother to those who need a helping hand: organize a "Sweater, Socks and Soap Drive," collecting personal hygiene items and used, but warm coats and clothing for the homeless. Separate the items into a "homeless care package" and personally deliver each package. Alternatively, you might collect purchased or hand-knitted items. Place these items in locations where the homeless or other people in need gather, pinning a K of C prayer card to each along with a note that says "Experience the gift of warmth today – Please take me. Signed, a brother in Christ."

Another way one might share the joy of being Catholic during Holy Week would be to organize a palm folding event to coincide with Palm Sunday. If someone in your community is experienced at folding palms, ask them to teach the families of the parish. Otherwise, a few Knights should teach themselves by following one of the many online instructional videos and then share their newly learned skill with others. Once the palms are folded, the Knights should hand them out, together with the *Our Lady of Guadalupe prayer card* (#4753), to the homebound of the parish and to the sick and elderly at local nursing home facilities and hospitals.

For additional Founder's Day ideas, visit the "For Officers" section of our website at kofc.org.

Win a Trip to Dublin!

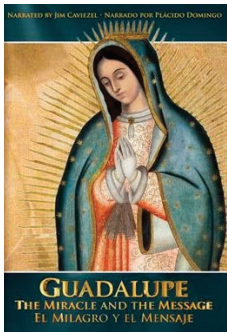
Recruit a new member and you just might win an all expense paid trip for you and your wife to the World Meeting of Families in Dublin next August! Only 10 Knights will be selected for this trip, but the more men you recruit, the higher the chance to win: If you recruit one member, you're entered once — if you recruit 10 members, you're entered 10 times!

The drawing will take place on July 1, 2018, and anyone who has proposed a new member this fraternal year is eligible. For information on the World Meeting of Families, please visit worldmeeting2018.ie.

Reminder

The *Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics* (#4584) and the *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728) are due Jan. 31, 2018. These forms can be found at kofc.org/forms or in the *Council Reports Forms Booklet* (#1436).

Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message



Catholics around the world celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, on Dec. 12.

To celebrate the special day, check out the film *Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message* and explore the intricacies of the centuries-old wonder. Amazon Prime members can now view it free of cost! If you'd like to purchase the DVD, it's available for \$15 at knightsgear.com. For additional details, visit guadalupefilm.com.

Challenges and Contests

Now is the time to begin planning your Knights of Columbus Free Throw event. Order the *Free Throw Kit* (#FT-KIT), arrange for gym space, select Knights to serve as judges/scorekeepers and schedule your council's competition. To make this year's program memorable for all participants, consider involving local NBA, WNBA or college basketball teams in the higher-level events.

For further information on the Free Throw Competition or any other K of C youth program, contact Ed Wezenski (203-752-4703 or edward.wezenski@kofc.org) or visit kofc.org.

Reminder: Semiannual Audit

Your council's *Semiannual Council Audit Report* (#1295) must be completed as soon as possible after Dec. 31. The form is available at kofc.org/forms or in the *Council Reports Forms Booklet* (#1436).

Still Planning Your 40 Cans for Lent Drive?

If you need help planning your 40 Cans for Lent drive, take a moment to check out kofc.org/community. There you will find a Food for Families link, that leads to a dedicated webpage about the program. Be sure to review the Action Steps and the list of Support Materials, and you'll be well on your way to running a successful drive. If you have further questions, call 203-752-4270 or email fraternalmission@kofc.org.

Seven Helpful Tips for the March for Life

This year we ask every single Knight living in the United States to attend the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. — or a local pro-life demonstration — on Jan. 19, 2018. Here's a helpful checklist to help you plan:

1. Welcome families to attend — there is no better way to witness to the name of pro-life than to welcome babies and family members of all ages. While it might be difficult for some young families and older people to march, the Knights should be there to offer whatever support they need. Pushing a wheelchair or carrying a heavy diaper bag can give families a much appreciated break!
2. Make sure to charter a bus (or buses) with enough space for everyone. Or, help pro-life groups coordinate their own trips.
3. Bring your phone and camera. We encourage you to share a vivid capture of your experience on social media, helping build enthusiasm and support of the march among those who couldn't attend. Be sure to use the hashtags #MarchforLife, #WhyWeMarch and #prolife.
4. Pack water and snacks. It's important to keep up your energy and stay hydrated.
5. Carry your Knights of Columbus rosary. Lead your brother Knights in a rosary for life as you march, or encourage them to say it privately.
6. Order *Choose Life signs* (#9341, available in English, French or Spanish) to carry at the event. Place an order by sending an email to william.obrien@kofc.org with your name, address, council number, telephone number and the exact number of signs needed. When ordering, specify the language preferred.
7. Wear warm hats, scarves and coats! The march is in the middle of January, so dress in warm Knights' gear to keep you toasty. For more details on the march, visit marchforlife.org.



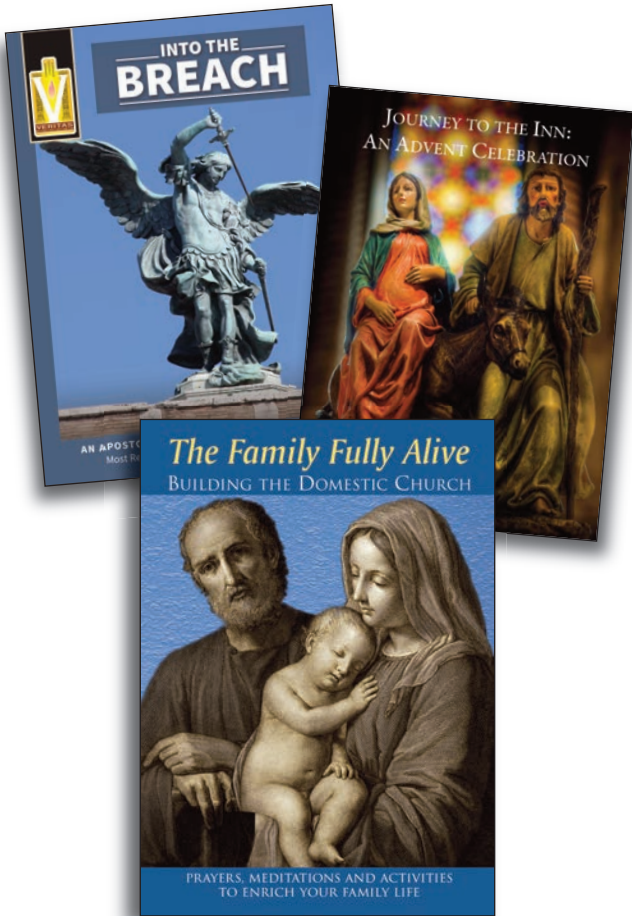
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BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

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



The Building the Domestic Church initiative is a series of programs that will help members, their families and all Catholics grow and develop in their faith. It appeals especially to young men and young families who represent the future of the Order. Many councils are successfully incorporating Domestic Church programs such as Family Rosary Services, the Journey to the Inn and Consecration to the Holy Family into their programming schedules. If your council has not yet done this, see “A Quick Guide to Getting Started,” shared below, for concrete suggestions on how to get involved.

It is important to note that Building the Domestic Church programs are not intended to replace those that your council is already successfully implementing. It is, however, recommended that every council evaluate each program they sponsor, modifying or eliminating those that do not meet the needs of the members, parish and community.

During this reevaluation process, it is our responsibility as leaders to remind our members of three things. First, Domestic Church programs are the types of programs that young men and young families consistently tell us that they want and need. Second, the Church needs greater involvement from the laity, and through these programs we can help this happen. Third, these programs will help men and their families to grow in the Catholic faith, as all of our programs should.

For more information on the Building the Domestic Church initiative and a listing of BDC programs, visit kofc.org/domesticchurch.

FIRST STEPS FOR COUNCILS

Every Knights of Columbus council is called to respond to the challenges facing our families and our parish communities. To accomplish this, we must rededicate ourselves to our mission of service for the Church. By implementing this initiative, Knights, their families and parishioners will work to promote the new evangelization, strengthen our parishes and build Catholic fraternity.

STRENGTHENING PARISH LIFE

The Knights of Columbus was founded to strengthen Catholic families. Today, we do this by dedicating our time, talent and resources to help our parishes become beacons of the new evangelization.

In support of this, every Knights of Columbus council should strive to be united with its parish’s mission and vision. All of our programs and activities, whether at home, at Church or in the community, are a means of impacting and strengthening parish life.

A QUICK GUIDE TO GETTING STARTED

1. Meet with your pastor to plan your 2018 event calendar. Parish priorities should drive your council’s activities.
2. Read or watch the Supreme Knight’s Domestic Church address, found at kofc.org/domesticchurch, under “Latest News.”
3. Explore kofc.org/domesticchurch. There you can find resources to help your council plan activities.
4. Promote *Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive* (#10162). Order copies of the program for your members, and ask your chaplain or lecturer to incorporate the monthly theme into your meetings.
5. Start a study group for your parish and council using Bishop Olmsted’s *Into the Breach* (#340). In particular, focus on discussing and implementing the “Practices of a Committed Catholic Man” mentioned in the booklet.

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY WITH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS INSURANCE

A Vocation to Serve

Every month the Supreme Council welcomes approximately 25 brother Knights to New Haven for a week of fellowship and instruction.

These men come from all across North America to hone their craft and develop their skills.

They've done many things: They've built houses. They've served in the military. They've taught students. They've discerned the priesthood. They've been fraternal leaders. They've been business leaders. They've been farmers. They've been foremen. They've been firefighters and police officers, truck drivers and bankers.

Now, despite their different backgrounds and different locales, they share two common bonds: They are Knights, and they are newly contracted agents.

Though challenging and demanding, such a career with the Knights provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for men to do well for themselves and their families while doing good for others.

A career as a dedicated, professional agent is principally a career of service. Working with their general agent and our Supreme Council team, each Knights of Columbus agent has a dedicated group of Knights of Columbus families to care for with his expertise and guidance.

The agent meets with his members regularly, helps them review their financial situation and offers them access to our exclusive line of insurance products.

Our agents receive extensive training and, through our compensation program, have the opportunity to enjoy an income limited only by the work they put into their career.

Working independently but not without support, our agents set their own schedules and are eligible for a benefits package. For agents in the U.S., this package includes group health, life, dental and disability insurance; a non-contributory defined-benefit pension plan; a 401(k) plan; expense allowance; reward trips and other incentives.

Eligible benefits in Canada include a non-contributory defined-benefit pension plan, supplemental medical insurance, dental insurance, expense allowance, reward trips and other incentives.

It's a tremendous career opportunity — and it's now available in many communities in the United States and Canada.

Do you love the Order and have a passion for helping it grow? Are you a man of faith who wants to serve the Church? Are you a family man who needs to provide for loved ones? Are you looking for a vocation through which you will find happiness and fulfillment? Are you entrepreneurial and looking to set your own schedule and earn an income according to your effort?

If you, or someone you know, would answer "yes" to any of these questions, then you owe it to yourself to explore the possibility. You just may be the person we're looking for, and we just may be that company for which you've been searching.

To learn more about the career opportunities in your area and speak to your local general agent, send an email to careers@kofc.org or call 203-752-4136.

Who knows what the future will hold? In a few short months, maybe you'll be among the few who gather in New Haven for a week of training in fellowship.

We look forward to welcoming you.



Are You Sharing the Message of Christmas?

Throughout the years we've asked our brother Knights to say "Merry Christmas" as a means of sharing the joy of Christ's birth. We'd love to know how your council is proclaiming "Merry Christmas!" Share details and pictures by visiting kofc.org/knightsinaction.

This New Year's, Make a Lifesaving Resolution

It's not too late to assist your parish food pantry, community food bank or local soup kitchen during the holiday season. Actually, with the new year just around the corner, now is the perfect time to make a resolution to share warmth and food with those in need. Your council should also resolve to organize a Coats for Kids event at least once in the new year. For additional information, visit kofc.org/coats and kofc.org/community.



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1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326, USA

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
TO YOU
AND
YOUR FAMILY



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

 **KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**



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