

Knightline

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

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

Haitian Amputee Athletes Attend Vatican Meeting

Wilfrid Macena, Mackenson Pierre and Sandy J. L. Louise — three members of a Haitian amputee soccer team in Port-au-Prince — attended a Vatican conference on Jan. 10, courtesy of the Knights of Columbus. The young men received prosthetic legs through “Healing Haiti’s Children,” a program sponsored by the Knights of Columbus in collaboration with the University of Miami-affiliated Project Medishare. The partnership offered free prosthetics and rehabilitation to children who lost limbs in the earthquake that devastated Haiti on Jan. 12, 2010.

Medishare provided medical expertise and treatment, while the Knights of Columbus offered funding of more than \$1.7 million. These funds effectively provided an estimated \$12 million worth of aid and created a sustainable program by hiring local Haitians to assist with the manufacturing and rehabilitation work. To date, more than 1,000 children have received prosthetic limbs in the program.

The conference in Rome was called by Pope Francis to focus on the humanitarian catastrophe and its ongoing impact, and to affirm the Church’s closeness to the Haitian people. The meeting,

organized by the Pontifical Commission for Latin America and the Pontifical Council “Cor Unum,” included a presentation by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson.

“The work of the dedicated medical staff and the unbreakable spirit of these Haitian young people, in circumstances most of us can’t imagine, are truly inspiring,” said Anderson. “After the earthquake, thousands of children and young people underwent emergency amputations in order to survive, and we are pleased to have been able to help many reclaim their lives despite terrible challenges.”

The story of the program and the children it has served was captured in *Unbreakable: A Story of Hope and Healing in Haiti*, a documentary produced by the Knights.

Winner of the Most Inspirational Documentary Award at the DocMiami International Film Festival/Florida Documentary Film Festival in September, the film also follows the story of the formation of the Haitian amputee soccer team *Zaryen* (tarantula), named after the resilient spider known for its ability to continue living even after losing a limb. The film was aired by PBS affiliates in several markets in January.

The team traveled to the U.S. in 2011 to teach amputee soccer to troops who lost limbs in Iraq and Afghanistan. While in Italy, the Haitian delegation attended an audience with Pope Francis and offered a demonstration of amputee soccer at a K of C soccer field in Rome.

Fraternal Survey: Submit Now

Councils, assemblies and circles should have completed the 2014 *Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728) and submitted it to the Supreme Council office by Jan. 31. If you have not already done so, please send in your survey immediately. This form is available at kofc.org/forms or in the *Council Reports Forms* booklet (#1436).



Pope Francis receives a Team Zaryen jersey from Wilfrid Macena while his fellow players (left to right), Mackenson Pierre and Sandy J.L. Louise, look on. Also present were Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and (far left) Dr. Robert Gailey, director of rehabilitation for Project Medishare.

Courtesy of L'Osservatore Romano.



During the audience with the team Zaryen members, Pope Francis also spoke with Supreme Knight Carl Anderson.

Grand Knight Checklist – February

- The following materials were due in January. If your council has not yet submitted them, please do so immediately.
 - ♦ Council Per Capita, Catholic Advertising and Culture of Life Fund assessments.
 - ♦ Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics (#4583), Free Throw Championship Participation Form (FT-1) and Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest Participation Form (#4001).
 - ♦ Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728).
- Plan for your council’s participation in the Day of the Unborn Child (March 25).
- Schedule activities to celebrate Founder’s Day (March 29).
- Make sure your council is on the path to earning the Star Council Award.

Courtesy of L'Osservatore Romano.

Celebrate Founder's Day

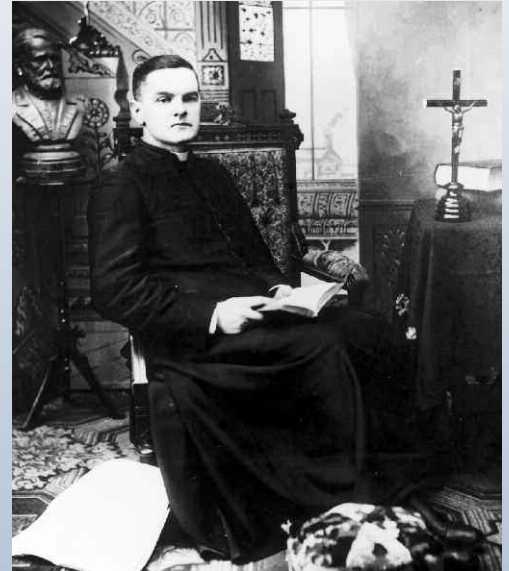
The Knights of Columbus began in the basement of St. Mary's Church in New Haven in 1882, when Father Michael J. McGivney called together a small group of pioneering Catholic laymen and founded a society designed to provide financial assistance for widows and orphans of members.

On or around Sunday, March 29, every council is encouraged to organize celebrations honoring the legacy of Father McGivney. As our founder's vision was one for the entire Church, calling each man to active participation in the sacramental life of the parish, plan events not only for Knights and their families, but also for the parish community.

Here are a few Founder's Day activities your council can sponsor to celebrate the founding of our Order and the institution of your council:

- Hold a Founder's Day reception for your parish and community.
- Conduct an open house and give out information on the Order.
- Invite members, families and guests to a showing of the film *The Life and Legacy of Father McGivney*.
- Prepare a council history display featuring old photos and written records. Invite local news networks to review this display for a possible story on the council. For displays, an 8.5-by-11-inch reproduction of original portraits of the Order's incorporators (#4346) is available.
- Ask your local government to issue a proclamation declaring March 29 as Knights of Columbus Founder's Day.
- Recognize your council's founders — your charter members — by presenting them with *Charter Member Certificates* (#1456).
- Remember that Founder's Day activities are the perfect forum for asking eligible Catholic men to join the Knights of Columbus. Tie in your anniversary celebrations with membership activities.
- Hold a First Degree exemplification in honor of Father McGivney.

For more ideas on celebrating Founder's Day, visit the "Council" section of kofc.org/service.



Orderwide Outreach Week — Conduct an Outreach Program in Honor of Our Founder

In honor of our founder, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, the Supreme Council is encouraging all councils to conduct outreach programs the week of March 21-29. What better way for the Knights of Columbus to show they still follow Father McGivney's devotion to helping people in need than by providing outreach to those less fortunate than ourselves in our parishes and communities?

The Order has many programs in place to assist people who need our help, so your council should utilize those which help meet the needs of your own community. Consider conducting a Food for Families program such as a food drive, or prepare and serve a meal at a soup kitchen. If warm weather comes early to your area, late March might be the perfect time to take part in a Habitat for Humanity building project. Of course, councils can become involved in programs like the Order's Ultrasound Initiative and Special Olympics at any time during the year. Please visit kofc.org/service for additional ideas on specific programs your council

might conduct. If your individual community has other specific needs, consider developing new programs to provide assistance where it is most needed. Whatever your council chooses to do, the important thing is that each and every council does something to make life better in its parish and community.

While your council is conducting outreach programs during this week and throughout the year, remember that every program represents a membership recruitment opportunity. A great way to convince a prospect to join the Order — or to get a current member to be more active in the council — is to invite him to participate in a program that allows him to put his faith into action.

Finally, tell us about the programs your council conducts during Outreach Week by sending an email to knightline@kofc.org. Submissions on council programs will be considered for publication in the Knights in Action section of *Columbia*, *Knightline* or on kofc.org.

Service and Membership in March

- **Orderwide Church Drive, March 14-15** — Councils should be consulting with their pastor and securing permission to have pulpit announcements after all Masses on this weekend. To conduct a successful church drive, please consult the Fraternal Training Portal.
- **Orderwide First Degree Week, March 16-22** — During this week, welcome the prospective members gathered from the Orderwide Church Drive. Councils that do not have a certified First Degree Team available should take advantage of utilizing the First Degree Video Production, available through Officers Online.
- **Orderwide Outreach Week, March 21-29** — Councils are encouraged to conduct charitable service projects during this week to honor our founder.
- **Founder's Day Weekend, March 28-29** — Every council is encouraged to organize celebrations honoring the legacy of Father McGivney and the founding of the Order.



Day of the Unborn Child

Take the opportunity to once again stand up against the evils of abortion by celebrating the International Knights of Columbus Day of Prayer for the Unborn Child. The Day of the Unborn was instituted as part of the Order's Crusade for Life, symbolizing the Knights' commitment to building a culture that respects and protects every human life, from conception to natural death.

With the Day of the Unborn Child soon approaching on March 25, the solemnity of the Annunciation, councils are encouraged to begin organizing either a pro-life Mass or prayer service. Special prayer services can be held in council homes, meeting places or local parishes. Remember to invite all members of the community, including public officials and health care workers. Strength in numbers gives others the courage to speak up and also lets the community know there is a group willing to help women in crisis pregnancies. To plan a service, councils should:

- Speak with their chaplain or local pastors regarding the celebration of Mass or the recitation of the rosary at their churches.
- Ask pastors to make a pulpit or bulletin announcement regarding the program the weekend prior to the event.
- Send a notice to the local diocesan newspaper and secular media.
- Distribute *Prayer for the Unborn* cards (#4665), available from the Supply Department.

Visit kofc.org for a brochure which includes hymns, suggested intercessions for the cause of life and rosary meditations. In addition, to further assist your pro-life activities the Supreme Council offers the following materials:

- The four-page, full-color *Winning Words of Life* flyer (#2275), which offers responses to common abortion arguments.
- *A People of Life — And for Life* brochure (#4795) and poster (#4804).
- *Pray the Rosary to End Abortion* poster (#2073) and prayer card (#2072).
- *Gospel of Life* poster (#4238) and prayer card (#4237).

For more information on the Knights of Columbus Day of the Unborn Child, visit kofc.org/prolife.



Knights of Columbus Sets Insurance Record for 14th Consecutive Year

The Knights of Columbus recorded its 14th consecutive year of growth in insurance sales in 2014, with \$8.24 billion in new life insurance sold. The K of C now has more than \$96 billion of life insurance in force. The record sales have led to an increase of nearly \$50 billion in the last decade.

"In 133 years of operation, the Knights of Columbus has helped meet the spiritual and financial needs of Catholic families while also serving the community through charitable works," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. "We are pleased to have had great success on both of these fronts, which comes from our continued commitment to our founding mission of serving our neighbor consistent with Catholic social teaching. The continued growth in our insurance sales is a testament to our business model and to our close to 1,400 professional agents, who are the cornerstone of that model."

Supreme Knight Anderson explained that record-breaking results mean that the K of C has "helped its members to protect their families

while simultaneously enabling the Knights to support those most in need and the many works of the Catholic Church."

This record concludes a year of milestones and accolades for the organization. In March, the Knights of Columbus was named a 2014 "World's Most Ethical Company" by the Ethisphere Institute, an independent center for research promoting best practices in corporate ethics and governance. It was one of two companies named in the "life insurance" category and one of fewer than 150 total companies worldwide to earn this distinction.

In June, the Knights retained its spot on the Fortune 1000 and earned its 39th consecutive A++ Superior rating for financial strength — the highest rating available — from ratings agency A.M. Best. No insurer in North America is more highly rated than the Knights of Columbus.

The Knights offers a product line designed to provide life insurance, annuities, disability income and long-term care policies to meet the needs of Catholic families.



Special Olympics Report Due

The deadline for councils to submit the *Partnership Profile Report With Special Olympics* (#4584) was Jan. 31, but forms are continuing to be accepted. Please take advantage of this extension to help your jurisdiction receive a greater portion of the additional monies being made available from the Supreme Council for Special Olympics. When submitting, ensure your council reports all activities (hours volunteered and dollars contributed) for calendar year 2014. The Supreme Council is also offering an incentive for councils that support Special Olympics. If a council meets the minimum requirements for monies raised and volunteered hours, it will fulfill all four of the Council Activity requirements for the *Columbian Award* (#SP-7). The council must provide at least 200 volunteer hours in support of state/local Special Olympics activities and raise a minimum of \$2,000. The forms are available online at kofc.org/forms.



What Makes a Star Council?

Did your council make its quota? Did it conduct programs that included a large percentage of its membership? Does your council discuss programs with its chaplain? Does your council involve its field agent?

Fraternal leaders should continually review their council's programs, as well as membership numbers and charitable activities, to make sure their council meets the requirements to become a Star Council. To be eligible, councils must have earned the Father McGivney, Founder's and Columbian awards, and be hosting or participating in four First Degree exemplifications. Additionally, councils must conduct and report at least four major programs in each of the Service Program categories. To report your activities, please use the Columbian Award Application found in the *Council Report Forms Booklet* (#1436) or at kofc.org/forms. Councils must complete all six categories of the Surge ... with Service program to be eligible for the Columbian Award. Now is the time to identify which categories your council has yet to fulfill.

Remember that a Star Council involves its members, builds enthusiasm and bolsters membership efforts through its programs and activities. Star Councils set the pace for the Order in growth and good council programs. Remember that your council reports tell us what was achieved through your programs and activities. The only way to improve the results is to develop the programs of the council, include more members and be involved in parish life. The better the programs are in connecting members of the council and uniting them in a common cause, the better the report.

For further details on achieving these awards, please refer to the *Surge ... with Service* program manual (#962) or the *Grand Knight's Handbook* (#915).



What Your Council Needs for a Church Drive

To make your church drive a success you will need the right tools. Here is a quick guide to the items every council should have available during their recruitment drives:

- **Why You Should Become a Knight flyer (#10100):** This flyer provides a quick overview of the Knights of Columbus, explaining how the Order was created to unite men in their faith and help them in times of need; how the Knights offers many opportunities to grow in service to faith, community, family and youth; and the value of the Order's insurance program.



- **24 Hours Can Change Your Life flyer (#10099):** This flyer explains how a man can make a difference in his community, serve his parish and grow in his faith by giving only 24 hours a year to the Knights of Columbus.

- **Prospect Cards (#921A):** These 3-by-5-inch cards help councils collect contact information on prospects who would like to learn more about the Knights of Columbus.

- **Membership Document (#100):** This is what it is all about — getting those prospects to sign up and join you as brother Knights. Next step: the First Degree. Afterward, your prospects and their families can start being active within the council and Order.

When conducting your church drives, have these items on hand to display the benefits of membership, but be sure to obtain your pastor's approval to hold a membership drive at the church before ordering. Follow these additional steps for a successful church drive:

- Choose a weekend and prepare an announcement for the parish bulletin, asking that it be run during the two weekends before the drive.
- During the drive, display your council's activities through handouts. Include information on your council and copies of your council's newsletter.
- Arrange for the pastor, grand knight or membership director to make a brief announcement before Mass explaining the Order and encouraging men to fill out a *Prospect Card*. If needed, use the *Suggested Remarks for Membership Recruitment* flyer (#10067), which includes an announcement that may be customized to reflect your council's activities.
- Have Knights in position at church exits to answer questions from prospects. They should also collect the *Prospect Cards* and assist interested men in completing *Membership Documents*. After the event, deliver the completed *Membership Documents* and *Prospect Cards* to the membership director. Remember to immediately contact those who signed *Membership Documents*, letting them know the dates and times of their meeting with the Admission Committee and the First Degree exemplification.

Receive VIP Points for Your Successes!

District Deputies that form a new council, reinstitute a dissolved council or reactivate a suspended council between Jan. 1 and June 30 could earn 10,000 VIP points per council.

Members who recruit one to five new members between Jan. 1 and June 30 will receive double the normal amount per member or 1,000 VIP points per member. Knights who recruit six or more members will again double their points to 2,000 VIP points per member.

Note: Reinstatements, member reactivations, readmissions and reapplications will be included in your recruitment total.

Bringing Food to Those in Need

The Knights of Columbus donated \$100,000 to assist the Connecticut Food Bank in providing meals to those in need during the Christmas season.

Nancy Carrington, CEO of the Connecticut Food Bank, was presented with the donation by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson at the Knights of Columbus headquarters in New Haven on Dec. 23, 2014.

“With the cost of food rising and so many people struggling with hunger in our community, the Knights of Columbus is pleased to support the wonderful work of the Connecticut Food Bank,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “Helping others in need here in Connecticut — and around the world — has been the mission of the Knights of Columbus for more than 130 years.”

For more than a decade, the Order has regularly supported the Food Bank with donations of food and funding. Earlier last year, a gift of \$20,000 was made to the Food Bank.

Knights of Columbus employees and volunteers continue to assist the Connecticut Food Bank through a variety of fundraising and volunteer endeavors.



Connecticut Food Bank CEO Nancy Carrington shows Supreme Knight Anderson her organization's mobile pantry.

What Is Your Council Doing for Lent? One Can Will Make a Difference!

Hunger knows no season. Many people go hungry every day. Fortunately, through the Food for Families program, the Knights of Columbus can provide help where it's needed.

To help keep food pantries well-stocked all year round, Knights should organize seasonal drives to help parish food pantries, community food banks and soup kitchens. During Lent, consider conducting a “40 Cans for Lent” program in your council and parish. The goal of this drive is for council members and parishioners to each contribute one can of food per day during the 40 days of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18. Then, at the end of Lent — or periodically throughout Lent — the food is delivered to a parish food pantry or community food bank.

Promote the initiative using parish and council bulletins, announcements at Mass (with your pastor's permission, of course), council meetings, email blasts or postings to the council's Facebook page. If your parish has a school or day care center, consider sending announcements home with the students.

Remember that through the Food for Families Reimbursement Program, councils are eligible for a rebate of \$100 for every \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food contributed to a local food bank, food pantry or soup kitchen. For further information, contact Quianna Richardson (203-752-4402 or quianna.richardson@kofc.org) or visit kofc.org/community.

New Haven Police and Knights of Columbus Partner to Give Warmth — One Kid at a Time

The Knights of Columbus is expanding on its successful Coats for Kids program by teaming up with the New Haven Police Department, providing officers with coats to distribute as they encounter children and families in need.

The idea of an officer gifting coats to children in need was the fruit of a conversation between New Haven Police Lt. Sam Brown and Connecticut State Deputy Tom Vita during a charitable event last month in New Haven. Lt. Brown suggested that officers would be happy to give away coats while on routine rounds. The idea has since become a department-wide effort.



(L-R) New Haven Police Lt. Sam Brown, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, Police Chief Dean Esserman and Connecticut State Deputy Tom Vita.

“We are pleased to be able to work on this with the wonderful men and women of the New Haven Police Department,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “Meeting real community needs in efficient and innovative ways is a hallmark of the Knights of Columbus.”

The officers will give away children's coats donated by the Knights of Columbus during the course of their regular activities in the community, according to New Haven Police Chief Dean M. Esserman and Supreme Knight Anderson. The supreme knight described the program as a model of cooperation between a private charitable organization and hardworking public servants to help those in need.

“The men and women of the NHPD are grateful to the Knights of Columbus for their great compassion in helping us all care for the members of our community,” said Chief Esserman.



Active Councils Are Successful Councils

We would like to produce a listing of upcoming events that we can pursue for possible promotion with local media and/or for use as a feature article in one of our publications. Please send information on your project (including the when, where, what, who, why and how of the activity) and photos to knightline@kofc.org. If you have any questions about sending in photos, call us at 203-752-4264.

In addition, if you think your council has an event or program that is an outstanding example of one of the six “Surge ... with Service” categories — Church, Family, Culture of Life, Youth, Community or Council — let us know. Please send a brief description (one or two sentences) of your event, with the date, location and contact information, to knightline@kofc.org. Or, call 203-752-4264.

Members of Granville (Iowa) Council 3810 donated \$150 to support more than 20 young men of the Granville, Alton and Hospers area in the organization of their newly formed Squires circle. The funds will support the Squires’ future activities.

In response to local damage from typhoon Yolanda, Knights from St. James the Greater Council 13658 in Sagay City, Visayas, collected rice and other food items. The donations were then distributed to victims of the typhoon. Additionally, members of the council assisted with building a kiosk to be used during their local parish’s annual fiesta.

Msgr. George Lewis Smith Council 3684 in Aiken, S.C., volunteered to split logs from trees that had fallen during last winter’s snow storms. The Knights split seven cords of wood, which will be donated to those in need of heating assistance.

Big Thompson Council 3434 in Loveland, Colo., raised more than \$14,000 during a recent fundraiser. The proceeds will be distributed to Special Olympics and the local Boy Scout troop, and help provide scholarships to the local St. John’s Catholic school.

Members of Father Joseph Kearns Assembly in Waco, Texas, participated in Baylor University’s homecoming parade. This year marked the first in which Knights joined the parade, traveling more than two miles through downtown Waco.



St. John’s Council 8190 in Luling, Texas, organized an ice cream social event at Hillcrest Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. During the social, seven residents of the center were presented with certificates of appreciation for their faithful service as veterans of the armed forces. The council also provided two wheelchairs to The Springs, a rehabilitation center for people with traumatic brain injuries.



Members of St. Joseph’s Council 3402 in Keyport, N.J., accompanied by the ladies’ auxiliary, took part in the Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness. The event was part of the council’s annual fundraiser, raising \$8,000 to donate toward breast cancer research and awareness.

Several Knights took part in celebrations remembering the 449th anniversary of the founding of the nation’s first mission in St. Augustine, Fla. Assemblies formed an honor guard for Bishop Felipe J. Estevez, who celebrated Mass at the exact location where Father Francisco Lopez, the first parish priest of the nation, celebrated the sacrament almost 450 years ago.

Members of Richard Council 788 in Lansing, Mich., delivered more than 110 “Casey the Teddy Bear” plush toys to be distributed by police patrol vehicles in the Lansing area. The bears will be used by local law enforcement agencies and victims advocate groups to assist children in traumatic situations.



Each month, St. Anne-Oratory Council 6756 in Rock Hill, S.C., presents an award to exceptional youth of the parish. The recipients, who receive either a Youth of the Month Award or a Virtuous Student of the Month Award, are elected by the St. Anne Youth Group director and school faculty. Last month, Grand Knight Ray Howard presented Knights of Columbus rosaries along with the awards.

Assisted by several parish groups, St. Oliver Plunkett Council 13440 in Snellville, Ga., sponsored a motorcycle ride to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. Beginning at the American Legion Post 233 in Loganville, Ga., the participants rode approximately 50 miles, stopping at Black Shoals Park’s Veteran Memorial Walk of Heroes. Following presentations at the memorial, participants enjoyed a lunch with door prizes and a drawing at St. Oliver’s parish. There are plans to make this an annual event.

St. Rose of Lima Council 6386 in Short Hills, N.J., collected \$7,700 for the purchase of winter coats for inner-city children in northern New Jersey. The Knights purchased more than 400 coats, which will be distributed by St. Joseph’s Social Service Center in Elizabeth, N.J.



Protect Your Family With Knights of Columbus Insurance

Your Shield of Strength

As the economy begins to shake off a half-decade of turbulent times, the Knights of Columbus is celebrating 14 consecutive years of insurance business growth.

We've weathered the storm when others haven't, because it's not our first. We've weathered the storm when others couldn't, because we know how to navigate. We've weathered the storm when others made costly mistakes, because we don't take on unnecessary risk.

Our strength is undeniable. More members than ever before see it and are using our shield to protect their families. Are you?

If you need life insurance — and chances are you do — why would you look anywhere else? Let us be your shield.

Did you know that the Knights of Columbus is one of the largest life insurers in North America? The Knights of Columbus has surpassed \$96 billion of insurance in force and is a member of the Fortune 1000.

Did you know that the Knights of Columbus consistently earns the highest possible ratings for its ethical business practices and sound investment strategies? A.M. Best, a global leader in the rating and analysis of insurance companies, has given the Knights of Columbus their highest financial strength rating (A++, Superior) for 39 consecutive years. There is simply no more highly rated insurance company in North America than your Knights of Columbus. Last year, the Knights was also named a "World's Most Ethical Company" by the Ethisphere Institute.

Did you know that providing financial benefits for members was the reason that Venerable Father Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus? Our founding charter from 1882 makes it clear: The Knights of Columbus' primary goal is "to render financial aid to its members and the beneficiaries of members."

Did you know that the Knights of Columbus offers a full, top-quality product line of life insurance, disability income insurance, long-term care insurance and retirement annuities? We have products and solutions to fit your family's needs and budgets. A Knights of Columbus agent is available to provide a complementary, comprehensive analysis to assess your situation.

Did you know that there are a number of products and services that you may be eligible for, just for being a Knight? Whether it's our family fraternal benefits program, our survivor benefits or our Personal Planning workbook, there are a lot of ways that the Knights of Columbus Insurance program can benefit you and your family.

Did you know that there are more than 1,400 Knights of Columbus agents throughout the United States and Canada? They are dedicated, full-time professionals, who live to serve you, your family and your community.

There might be quite a bit that you don't know about Knights of Columbus Insurance and about the fraternal and financial benefits of your membership. Join the hundreds of thousands of your brother Knights who use our shield as their protection. Contact your agent today.

Find him at kofc.org/findagent.

Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest

If your council has not yet done so, now is the time to begin local judging for the Knights of Columbus Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest. Remember that following the local judging, winners can progress through the district, regional, state and international levels.

Councils interested in holding a poster contest should talk to their state program or youth director to find out the deadlines in their area. To order a *contest kit* (#SA-KIT), visit kofc.org/forms or call 203-752-4625. The kit includes posters for advertising the contest at your parish or local schools.

All children ages 8-14 are eligible to enter, whether they are educated at home or in public or private schools, and can enter one of two categories: "Drug Awareness and Abuse" or "Alcohol Awareness and Abuse." Discuss the contest details with art teachers or homeschooling parents; they may be interested in using the contest as an art project or lesson on health or contemporary issues. Be sure to give the teachers and parents the council's contact information so the entries can be collected for judging and passed on to the next level. For more information on the Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest, visit kofc.org/service.

Best Practices for Your Council: Efficient Day-to-Day Operations Ensure Council Success

Knights of Columbus leaders face many responsibilities. Here are some tips on helping to address the council's day-to-day operations and the needs of members when planning future programs and setting agendas:

- **Consider the Needs of Your Parish and Community** — What impact will the council's activities have on the community? Where can the council make the biggest difference?
- **Take a Broader Perspective** — Are the council's goals and priorities in line with the Order's, and do they address the needs of the community and the Church?
- **Look at Your Members' Interests** — Survey council members on the types of service activities they are interested in, and then work to align council activities with the results.

Remember: There are no small deeds!

Don't let prospective ideas or projects overwhelm you. Small achievements can pave the way for bigger plans and greater involvement in the future.

Knightline

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