

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

One Word: Genocide

Secretary of State John Kerry declared genocide is being committed by ISIS against Christians in the Middle East. This decision came following a major report submitted to the State Department at the National Press Club in Washington in early March.

The 280-page report produced by the Knights of Columbus and In Defense of Christians contained substantial material verifying that what is occurring to Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East constitutes as genocide. This information included eye-witness interviews, the names of Christians killed, estimates of the number of dead in various regions under ISIS control, statements by governments and world leaders, and more. Senior State Department officials had requested that the K of C produce such a report — which is available online at www.kofc.org and www.StopTheChristianGenocide.org — after the Order began co-sponsoring a petition to include Christians in the declaration of genocide at the hands of ISIS. The petition was signed by more than 100,000 people.

In presenting the report, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said the collective evidence and ISIS' own public statements made it clear that the group is targeting Christians with the intent of destroying the Christian religion. ISIS' magazine, *Dabiq*, has promised to destroy the "Crusader army," which is a Christian reference, and has labeled Pope Francis "the crusader pope."

"While we believe this to be the most comprehensive report on this subject to date, covering incidents in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Egypt and Yemen, we continue to receive new reports and new evidence," said Anderson. With new information pouring in every day, he cautioned, "It may only be the tip of the iceberg."

He continued, "There is only one word that adequately, and legally, describes what is happening to Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East. That word is 'genocide.'"

Supreme Knight Anderson was among a panel of speakers asking the State Department to make a genocide designation. The panel also included Bishop Anba Angaelos, general bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church; Father Douglas al Bazi and Father Dankha Joola, both from Iraq; religious freedom scholar Nina Shea; The Catholic University of America law professor Robert Destro; Greg Stanton, founding president of Genocide Watch; *Defying ISIS* author Johnnie Moore; and Juliana Taimoorazy, founder of the Iraqi Christian Relief Council.

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Bishop Anba Angaelos, Father Douglas al Bazi and Johnnie Moore discuss the report on genocide.



Father Douglas al Bazi holds up the blood-stained shirt in which he was tortured by terrorists in Iraq.

Grand Knight Checklist – April & May

- Remember these upcoming due dates:
 - ✦ June 30 —
 - *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7)
 - *Annual Report — Knights of Columbus Round Table* (#2630)
 - *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, please submit the *Application for Refund Support Vocations Program* (#2863), *Food for Families Reimbursement Program Refund and Plaque Application* (#10057) and *Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728).
- Make sure your council is on the path to earning the Star Council Award.
- Consider who you'll be nominating as council officers for the next year.

Touch Down for Special Olympics Athletes

This year, a mini football combine was once again held in Indianapolis for Special Olympics athletes. There, they experienced a series of drills and activities similar to those performed by athletes participating in the NFL Scouting Combine.

Catholic Athletes for Christ (CAC) was a sponsor of the event, along with the Indiana Knights of Columbus and Special Olympics Indiana. Volunteers included athletes, coaches and officials from Marian University and members of the K of C and CAC.

Supreme Secretary Charles Maurer Jr. joined the volunteers for the combine, held at the Colts' indoor training facility. There, Indianapolis Colts offensive lineman Joe Reitz, a member of CAC, told the athletes about having correct priorities in their lives.

The participants completed elements that resembled events from the official NFL Combine, such as the 40-yard dash and agility drills. They also played a flag football game led by Reitz.

"The mini combine event is a reminder of the dignity of the human person, which is what the Knights of Columbus-Special Olympics partnership is about," said Indiana State Deputy Scott Cunningham, who has led an effort to make Special Olympics a statewide priority for the Indiana Knights.

A Founding Champion of the World Games, the K of C allocated \$1.5 million to last summer's Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles to help cover the costs of athletes' transportation, housing and meals.



The mini combine was hosted on behalf of the Colts, led by lineman Joe Reitz.



Supreme Secretary Maurer offers some advice to one of the participants.

Building the Domestic Church: An Invitation to All Married Couples

As a part of the Domestic Church initiative, Knights are asked to attend Mass together with their fellow council members and families on June 19, which marks the celebration of Father's Day in the United States and many countries. During or immediately following Mass, Knights and their wives — along with all the married couples of the parish — should have an opportunity to publicly witness to their commitment to marriage and to affirm their wedding vows.

In the February issue of *Columbia*, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson shared his vision that all of the Knights' Domestic Church programs, including the Father's Day affirmation of wedding vows, will become annual events in all the countries in which the Order is active. These types of events provide great opportunities to promote fraternity among your council and parish families. Sponsoring the event will also serve to make your council and its members visible to the parish community.

When planning the event, be sure to:

- Ask your pastor's permission to conduct the event, and discuss what time the Mass will be held. If his schedule permits, ask your pastor if he would provide a brief catechesis to the parish, explaining the Catholic understanding of marriage and the strength of the sacramental bond.
- Promote the event several weeks before it occurs. Prepare flyers for distribution at Masses and council meetings. Be sure to post the details on council and parish bulletin websites, as well as on social media.
- Make a pulpit announcement on the day of event just before Mass begins. Be sure to specifically invite all married couples — not simply Knights of Columbus members and their wives — to participate.

When planning the event, keep in mind that some couples may not wish to participate. Respect their decision, but encourage each couple to take a program with details of the ceremony so they may review it and determine whether they feel comfortable participating.

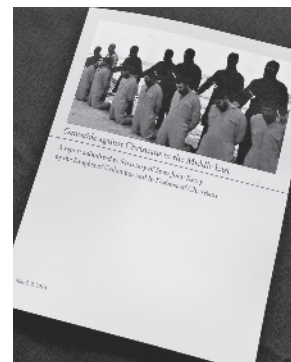
After the event, host a reception. Some councils may wish to hold a brunch or supply simple light refreshments, while others may wish to supply wedding cake in honor of the ceremony. No matter what your council chooses, don't forget to congratulate each couple and thank them for their witness.

A printable program booklet and other information on the event will be available on www.kofc.org/DomesticChurch.

Genocide, from Page 1

Support to define the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities as genocide continues to have consensus from a strong majority of the American people. Presidential candidates of both parties also agree, including former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who has directly referred to the situation as "a genocide." More than 200 members of Congress, Democrat and Republican alike, co-sponsored H.Con.Res.75, the legislation which declared these atrocities, targeted specifically for religious reasons, as a crime against humanity.

For more information, visit www.kofc.org.



Genocide Against Christians in the Middle East Report, showing a photo of the 21 Coptic Christians beheaded by ISIS in 2015.



The Gift of Mobility

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, answering the prayers of families through the gift of a wheelchair. Your council can join in answering these prayers by asking your entire parish to join in a “Wheelchair Sunday” parish drive.

Organizing a Wheelchair Sunday may help your council meet the Community Activities requirements for the Columbian Award. Remember, councils must raise the funds to purchase 100 wheelchairs to fulfill all four of the programming requirements. When conducting your program, also be prepared to ask qualified parishioners to join the council, and have *Membership Documents* (#100) on hand for them to complete.

For more information and/or to send a donation, please 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



Supreme Knight Carl Anderson with a recipient of one of the wheelchairs distributed during the February meeting of the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors.



Take a Stand: Choose Life

Join thousands of Canadians in voicing your opposition to the culture of death by attending the National March for Life in Ottawa on Thursday, May 12, 2016.

Prayer services, Masses, rallies, conferences and other events, including the Youth Conference and annual Rose Dinner, will also be held in Ottawa during this three-day period.

Councils requiring signs and materials for pro-life events may order *Defend Life* signs (#9341) and other support materials by calling 203-752-4403 or sending an email to william.obrien@kofc.org. Please specify the number of signs you would like to include in your order, and provide your name, address, council number and telephone number. The signs are available in English, Spanish and French; please note language preference when ordering.

For more information on the National March for Life and other pro-life events in Ottawa, please visit www.marchforlife.ca.

Surge ... In a New Way

Surge ... with Service materials will now be delivered to your council's financial secretary in a new way.

In the past, your council's financial secretary received 10 disks containing electronic copies of publications associated with the Surge ... with Service program. Those disks were distributed to council officers so they could download the information to their personal computers.

In an effort to streamline the distribution process and allow all members of your council access to the information associated with the program, the information is now directly available for download. All council members should visit www.kofc.org/surge to review or download the information.

Also, prior to the start of the 2016-17 fraternal year, financial secretaries will receive wallet-size cards to distribute to council officers. Each card lists the Surge pages and other important webpages that members should frequently visit throughout the year.

Have You Held Your Church Drive?

If you were unable to hold a church drive because of Lenten activities at your parish, now is the time to do so!

Remember to discuss the best dates for the drive with your pastor, and ask his permission to make pulpit and bulletin announcements inviting men to learn more about the Knights of Columbus. You might also utilize the video *An Invitation*, available at www.kofc.org/recruit1, to help peak a potential member's interest. The video is available to stream or download.

For more information on conducting a successful church drive, please consult the *Membership Recruitment and Retention Manual* (#10237).



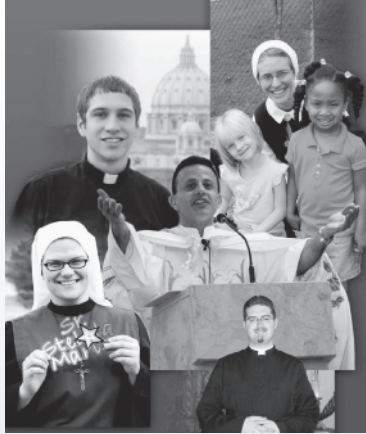
Poster Contest State Winners

Now is the time to begin submitting the names of the state winners of the K of C Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest. State winners must be chosen in early April and submitted to the Supreme Council office by April 30. International winners are announced prior to the close of the school year. For more information on the Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest, visit www.kofc.org/service.



World Day of Prayer for Vocations

On Sunday, April 17, the 53rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, councils are encouraged to conduct programs and activities that promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. By providing support to those discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life, we not only help them realize their vocations, but also help provide the Church with ministers to serve the needs of all faithful.



Here are some suggestions to support and pray for vocations in a variety of ways:

- Pray at the beginning and end of your council and assembly meetings for the Lord to prompt young people's hearts to respond to his call to a priestly or religious vocation.
- Work with local pastors to organize holy hours for vocations at local parishes.
- Promote "Vocations Day" events such as vocations fairs (with presentations by various seminarians, postulants and/or young religious) or drives to raise funds for a needy seminarian or religious.
- Offer to cover travel expenses for men and women attending personal vocation retreats, or sponsor a group visit to nearby seminaries or religious communities.
- Make the Order's RSVP scholarship and student loan information available to seminarians and postulants.
- Show support for local religious communities by sponsoring advertisements for their different communities in your parish bulletin.



Catholic Students Support Christians at Risk

The students and faculty at Peninsula Catholic High School in Newport News, Va., began their Lenten observances in direct solidarity with those who are being persecuted for their Christian faith.

The college preparatory school strives to challenge young men and women to mature spiritually, intellectually, socially and morally, providing an environment rooted in Catholic tradition — including that of sacrificing and praying for others.

The school's 260 students learned this firsthand through their Christians at Risk Refugee Drive, during which they spent a day deprived of many everyday conveniences.

Theology Department Chairperson Susan Wilkinson explained, "We began the day by inviting students to remove their shoes and turn off computers, phones and lights, so that we could experience a day of solidarity as a community. Our opening prayer remembered those who are refugees, making the connection to the Holy Family as they fled to Egypt."

The students' prayers and sacrifices were accompanied by Gregorian chant as they moved from class to class. After attending Mass and receiving Knights of Columbus prayer cards, the students were served a simple lunch of rice and beans, which they ate while sitting in groups on the floor.

At the end of the day, a few students went among the students and faculty, asking for financial donations to share with Christians in the Middle East. Inspired by the generosity of the community — who donated more than \$170 during the event — the students have continued to ask for donations and are praying for the refugees every morning and in every class.

For additional information and to donate to the fund, visit www.christiansatrisk.org/lent.



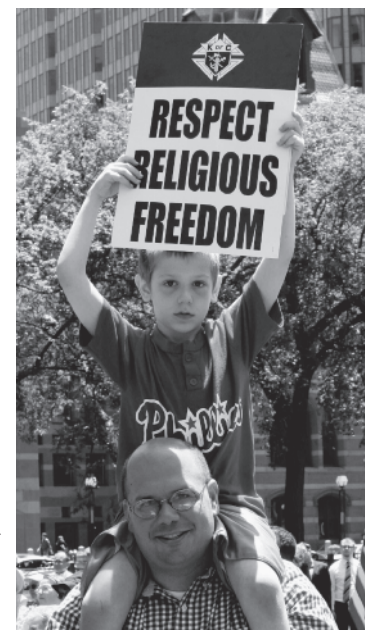
The Freedom to Bear Witness

Councils are once again encouraged to participate in the Fortnight for Freedom: The Freedom to Bear Witness, which will be held from June 21 to July 4, 2016. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops asks people of all religious denominations to participate in this fifth annual period of prayer, fasting and advocacy to respond to our country's many threats to religious liberty.

Knights can prepare to involve their council and community in a variety of ways, including:

- Sponsoring a day of faith-based service within their communities.
- Hosting a panel discussion on current religious freedom issues and inviting a local or national figure to speak to your parish and council about religious liberty.
- Organizing eucharistic adoration or leading a eucharistic procession past important government or civic buildings in your community.
- Presenting a movie night for members of your parish. Show a film that highlights the importance of religious liberty, such as *For Greater Glory*, which tells the story of thousands of men and women who fought for religious freedoms in Mexico in the 1920s.
- Displaying religious freedoms signs. *Respect Religious Freedom* (#10041) and *Defend the First Amendment* (#10042) signs may be ordered through www.KnightsGear.com.

For more resources and suggested activities on the Fortnight for Freedom, visit www.fortnight4freedom.org.



Final Quarter to Earn Star Council Award

Even though we are in the final quarter of the 2015-16 fraternal year, there is still time for your council to qualify for the Star Council Award. To be eligible to earn the award, a council must qualify for the Father McGivney, Founders' and Columbian awards and submit the *Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728) and the *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365).

Step 1: Columbian Award

To earn the Columbian Award, councils must conduct and report at least four major programs in each of the Service Program categories (Church, Community, Council, Culture of Life, Family and Youth). Or, councils may conduct a featured program in each of the six areas, thereby fulfilling all requirements for a particular category. After conducting your programs, you must complete and submit the *Columbian Award Application* (#SP7), found in the *Council Report Forms Booklet* (#1436) or at www.kofc.org/forms.

Step 2: Father McGivney Award

The Father McGivney Award is presented to councils that achieve at least 100 percent of goal in membership.* Double Star Councils, which achieve 200 percent of their membership quota, or Triple Star Councils, which achieve 300 percent of the quota, also qualify for the Father McGivney Award.

Step 3: Founders' Award

To earn the Founders' Award, your council must achieve its insurance membership quota as of July 1. The quota for councils is a 2.5 percent net increase, which equates to a minimum of three new insurance members. (Note: All membership and insurance transactions must be received, processed, recorded and released at Supreme Council headquarters by June 30.)

*100 percent quota for membership equals a 7 percent increase of the council's membership as of July 1 or a minimum of four net members.



Does Your Council Shine?

Here's a list of helpful questions to ensure that your council shows excellence in the areas of membership, insurance promotion and service programs, making it eligible to earn the prestigious Star Council Award.

- **Do any service program requirements remain unfulfilled?** If yes, visit www.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.
- **How close is your council to meeting its membership quota?** If the quota has already been met, recruit some additional members in case you have an unexpected drop in membership.
- **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.
- **Have you scheduled any Admission Degree 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.
- **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. Be sure to invite your agent to your social, charitable or recruitment events. Give him the opportunity to greet members as they arrive.

Upcoming Training Webinars

The next webinar for elected and appointed council officers will be held on June 4 at 2 p.m. and will focus on "Finishing the Fraternal Year Strong." For further details, please contact the Department of Fraternal Services at 203-752-4270 or fraternalservices@kofc.org.

For those unable to participate in the live discussions, webinar archives are available at www.kofc.org/webinar.

Welcome to the New KofC.org

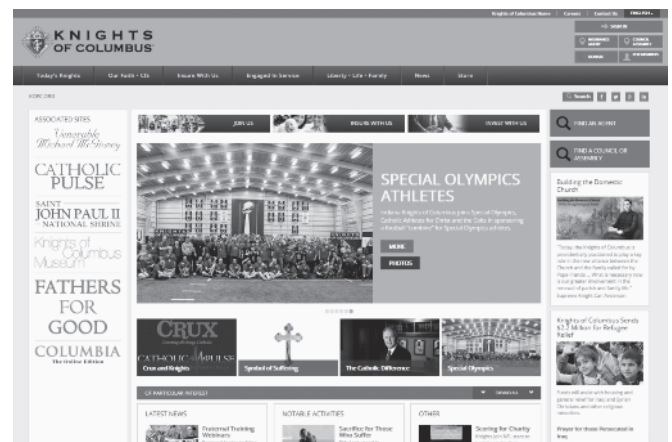
It's simple. It's quick. It's easy to use.

The newly redesigned kofc.org is here, and it's better than ever before.

One of the most noticeable improvements to the site is that it now automatically adapts to match the screen size of your device. Now, whether you are using a laptop, tablet or smart phone, you will have a much easier—and more personalized—user experience.

Visitors will also see that the site's navigation has been simplified, offering drop down menus and quick access to information.

Areas of specific interest, such as Knights of Columbus Insurance and Charity, have also been redeveloped. With the new design, these areas are more self-contained, featuring independent homepages and menus that clarify navigation and access to available materials. We invite you to take some time to visit and learn how the new site can best serve your council's needs.





Before the Flash Goes Off

Before snapping a picture at your next Knights of Columbus event, ask yourself the following:

- Is the photo engaging? Does it show recipients of your charitable efforts: children with coats, students using new computers, visitors to parish lunches or food kitchens, etc.?
- Is it close to the action? People's faces are one of the most interesting parts of a photo — they should be prominent.
- Can you see the Knights of Columbus logo? If your members have T-shirts or other items printed with the emblem of the Order, encourage them to wear these items at your events.
- Are there distracting items in the background? Are the central figures in shadows or oddly lit? Be sure to use your flash when necessary, and adjust your angle to capture a good backdrop for your council in action.

Although it may be convenient to take photos of people posing in groups, these types of images do not convey the amount of hard work that your council has performed. They simply do not show action! Similarly, don't submit images of Knights presenting check donations. Instead, show the people who benefit from the donation. Make the image personal by capturing the action up close.

If you have any questions about sending in photos, please call 203-752-4264. If your council has photos that you would like to be considered for publication, please send them to knightline@kofc.org. The photos must be sent via email as attached jpeg files.

Please do not embed images as part of a Word document or send them through a third-party online photo service. Do not send photos with embedded information, such as date and time stamps. Collages also cannot be accepted.



Here's an example of what makes a good photo that can readily be used in our publications: an engaging subject, people in action, an interesting angle, good lighting and composition.



Social Media 101: Facebook Basics

Did you know that 75 percent* of U.S. adults using the Internet are also social media users? With so many members and prospective members on social media, it makes sense for your K of C council to be there too. But how do you use social media for community outreach and engagement, rather than simply keeping in touch with family and friends?

It makes sense to start on Facebook, which has more than 1 billion users worldwide. Your council should set up a Facebook Organization Page (not a personal profile) and designate two or three officers — such as the grand knight, the recorder and the social media chairman — to act as administrators. Administrators can post to your page and respond to any comments and messages the council may receive.

Your council can use Facebook to share council news, advertise council fundraisers, share resources from the Supreme Council and market opportunities to join the Knights of Columbus.

Three things are important for all Facebook administrators to remember:

1. **Your Facebook page is public.** Anyone on Facebook can see your page and all of your posts. This isn't a place for private council business or personal conversations among council members. You are representing

your council and the Order. All content should be appropriate and positive. It should also follow the Knights of Columbus Member Social Communications Policy, which is available on the Officers' Desk Reference.

2. **Be positive.** Don't post negative content about a person, group, political party or idea. Instead, focus on the good that the Church, the Knights of Columbus and your council do. Regularly share content from the Supreme Council's Facebook page to add validity to your own, and always keep the values of the Order in mind when representing your council online.
3. **Invest time in your Facebook page.** The more you post, the more people will be inclined to "Like" your page and follow your council on social media. Reply to comments and messages in a timely and appropriate manner, especially when they are from men interested in becoming members of your council.

Now that you know the basics, start a council Facebook page and help your council be more accessible to your parish, community and potential membership!

**Pew Research Institute, 2015*

ORDER TODAY

Don't forget that a variety of Knights of Columbus products are available online at Knights Gear. This webstore covers all Knights of Columbus-related gift, electronic and clothing needs, as well as items for a successful Coats for Kids event. Although we're facing the end of the winter season, it's the perfect time to stock up on the coats your council plans on distributing in the colder months.

To order Knights Gear products through your council's account, please visit www.kofc.org. After signing into Officers Online, click on the Knights Gear logo.



Protect Your Family With Knights of Columbus Insurance

Knights of Columbus Named a 2016 World's Most Ethical Company

The Knights of Columbus has been recognized as a 2016 World's Most Ethical Company® by the Ethisphere® Institute for the third consecutive year.

The World's Most Ethical Companies designation recognizes companies that align principle with action and work tirelessly to make trust a part of their corporate structure. Such companies help shape future industry standards by introducing tomorrow's best practices today.

The Knights of Columbus is one of only two awardees in the life insurance category, underscoring the Knights' commitment to leading ethical business standards and practices.

This commitment will continue, as we promise to abide by principles in keeping with Catholic values, particularly through ethical selling, ethical business and ethical investing.

Ethical Selling

We professionally train our agents and rigorously hold them to the highest ethical standards. When contracted, each agent must sign a Code of Ethics, which is modeled after the Ten Commandments. When signing the code, agents commit to "present, honestly and accurately, all the facts necessary to enable a member to make an informed decision."

"Our fraternal ties to our members," the code states, "make it more incumbent on us, in our dealings with them, to assure that their interests are utmost in our minds as we provide solutions to their financial needs."

Ethical Business

The Knights of Columbus is committed to ethical business practices. We firmly believe that these practices have contributed to our business success and helped us to be consistently awarded the highest possible rating for financial strength from ratings agency A.M. Best.

We also make guarantees to our members and their families, so they do not have to wonder about the decision to do business with us. We guarantee the cash value in our whole life insurance products. We guarantee the rates on our level term insurance. And we guarantee a minimum interest rate on our retirement annuities.

Ethical Investing

Our investment strategy is both safe and Catholic-based. We will not purchase junk bonds. We will not purchase derivatives. We will not invest in companies that deal in abortion, contraception, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, for-profit healthcare that pays for any of the aforementioned, and pornography.

The World's Most Ethical Company assessment is based on the Ethisphere Institute's Ethics Quotient™ (EQ) framework, developed over years of research and vetted and refined by the expert advice from Ethisphere's World's Most Ethical Company Methodology Advisory Panel. The EQ offers a quantitative way to assess a company's performance in an objective, consistent and standardized way.

"Those that demonstrate leadership in areas like citizenship, integrity and transparency create more value for their investors, communities, customers and employees, thus solidifying a sustainable business advantage," said Ethisphere CEO Timothy Erblich.

We are honored that the Ethisphere Institute has again acknowledged our commitment. It is this commitment that makes doing business with the Knights of Columbus truly different.

*Find an agent by visiting www.kofc.org/findagent
or by calling 1-800-345-5632.*

How to Recruit Former Members

Former Knights represent a pool of prospects that councils should not overlook when striving for membership growth. Although these men have left the Order, they generally remain familiar with the ideals of Columbianism.

To successfully recruit former members, councils should:

- Appoint a special "Welcome Back, Brother" or "Operation Remember" committee specifically to recruit former members. Past grand knights familiar with circumstances of earlier departures are especially suited to serve on this committee.
- Obtain a list of former members (those who took withdrawals/suspensions) and inactive insurance members (those who took withdrawals/suspensions but maintain K of C insurance policies) from the Department of Fraternal Services. Check with your financial secretary for additional names and recent addresses.
- Review the list to determine which former members are still eligible for membership.
- Prepare a presentation for former members, highlighting your council's new programs, activities, benefits and achievements.
- Contact each former member to arrange a personal visit or to invite them to a reception for former members.
- If planning a "Welcome Back" or former-member reception, use the open house procedures. Be sure to invite your council chaplain and insurance agent to speak at the event.
- Ask every former member to sign a *Membership Document* (#100) to renew their membership.

Remember, recruitment isn't just about former members. On Easter, many churches welcomed many men and women to the Catholic Church. Check with your pastor and ask whether he'd be willing to share the names of any men from his Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) classes who might be interested in the Knights. Be sure to invite them and their families to Knights-sponsored events, and introduce to them to the active members of your council so that they can develop familiarity with the Order.

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