

Knightline

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

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Becoming the Strong Right Arm of Our Parishes

*During his midyear address to state deputies, Supreme Knight announces new initiative:
Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish*

The Knights of Columbus is positioned to play a key role in Pope Francis' call for a more active alliance between the Church and the family. At the midyear meeting, held Nov. 20-22 in San Antonio, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson shared with the assembled state deputies several strategies to help the Order more vigorously assist in these efforts.

"To meet this need we will have to do some things differently. Our councils will have to become even more active in our parish communities," Supreme Knight Anderson said.

The supreme knight pointed out that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops made clear the connection between the parish and the family in its 2012 document on the new evangelization, titled *Disciples Called to Witness*. The document notes, "The family, called the domestic church, is often the first place where one experiences and is formed in the faith."

The Knights of Columbus works in accordance with the guidance of this document, particularly in its development of thousands of new parish-based councils; its new programs to strengthen family life; and its increasing commitment to serve the Church's mission of a new evangelization through the parish.

The supreme knight noted that these three initiatives demonstrate how the Order is best situated to strengthen parish life, saying, "We are truly positioned today to move to a new level of service as the strong right arm of our parish."

During his address, the supreme knight announced a new Orderwide initiative, Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening our Parish, that will help the Order reach this level of service. The new program's success will align with progress in several categories.



Supreme Knight Carl Anderson addresses the state deputies during the midyear meeting.

Moving toward parish-based councils

Valuable resources should no longer be used to support home associations whose activities are outside the mission of the Knights of Columbus or the Church. Some home associations, because of the need to generate a constant stream of revenue just to maintain their buildings, have been forced into the facilities rental business, subjecting them to market forces, government regulations and liability risks. see *Strong*, Page 3

K of C Surpasses \$100 Billion of Life Insurance in Force

The Knights of Columbus surpassed \$100 billion of life insurance in force, marking an important milestone in the Catholic fraternal benefit society's mission to protect the future of Catholic families.

"The \$100 billion milestone is not simply a number," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. "It highlights the fact that each year we are protecting the future of more Catholic families, continuing the mission of our founder, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney."

The Knights of Columbus offers insurance to its members and their families through a network of more than 1,500 dedicated professional agents in the United States and Canada — all of whom are members of the Order.

see Surpasses, Page 2

Grand Knight Checklist – December & January

- Remember these upcoming due dates:
 - ✦ Jan. 1 — Council Per Capita Tax, Catholic Advertising Fund and Culture of Life Fund assessments levied by the Supreme Council
 - ✦ Jan. 31 — *Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728)
 - ✦ Jan. 30 — *Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics* (#4583), *Free Throw Championship Participation Form* (#FT-1) and *Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest Participation Form* (#4001)
- Review how your council will participate in the annual Food for Families initiative.
- Collect your council's data for the annual *Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728), due after the start of the new year.
- Make sure your council is on the path to earning the Star Council Award.



Polish Government Honors Supreme Knight

In recognition of his “outstanding achievements in charitable activities” and “contributions to promoting the legacy of John Paul II,” Supreme Knight Carl Anderson was honored by the Polish government with the Officer’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

The award, one of the first honors authorized by the recently elected Polish President Andrzej Duda, was conferred Oct. 16 at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C.

In his acceptance remarks, Supreme Knight Anderson said that it was profoundly meaningful for him to receive an award from Poland, which has preserved its national identity through much adversity and has also produced such great writers, artists, statesmen and saints.

“There is no nation — other than my own — that is more meaningful to me from which to receive such an honor than Poland. It touches me deeply and I am very grateful,” he said.

Under Supreme Knight Anderson’s leadership, the Knights of Columbus was established in Poland in 2006 — the first international expansion of the Order in more than a century. The Order has grown steadily in Poland; today there are nearly 4,000 Knights in 82 councils throughout the country.

Polish Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf praised the supreme knight’s leadership in developing the Saint John Paul II National Shrine, which is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The shrine, the ambassador said, “is a living monument dedicated to the life of the pope,” who “was able to change the world” by helping to bring down communist rule in Eastern Europe and liberate Poland.

In a letter read at the award ceremony, Ambassador Schnepf acknowledged that he is grateful to Supreme Knight Anderson and the Knights of Columbus for “establishing this state-of-the-art museum and national shrine dedicated to St. John Paul II.” He continued, “After walking through this magnificent shrine and experiencing the profound message that this museum emanates, I was greatly impressed by the splendor of this landmark.” He added that the shrine is a tribute “not only to Poland or to the United States, but to all of humanity.”

The ambassador concluded by saying that he hopes that good relations and friendship continue between Poland and the Knights of Columbus, and that many people will be inspired to visit the shrine, which he called “a unique place of faith and culture, a holy place where values can be rediscovered and life transformed.”

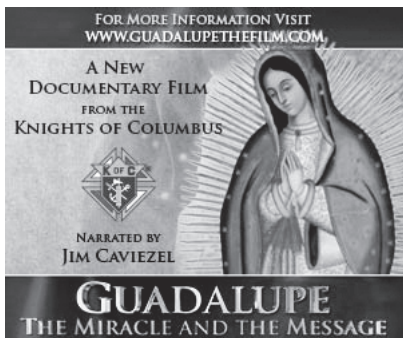
Also speaking at the event were Bishop Janusz Stepnowski of Łomża, Poland, and Msgr. Anthony Czarnecki, rector of St. Joseph Basilica, a Polish-American parish in Webster, Mass.

Bishop Stepnowski, who is a member of the Knights of Columbus, congratulated the supreme knight and shared his joy that the Order is present in the Łomża Diocese, which will host the 2016 State Convention of the Knights of Columbus in Poland.

Speaking on behalf of Polish-American Catholics, Msgr. Czarnecki called the Saint John Paul II National Shrine a magnificent place of faith, culture and dialogue. Citing the vision and dedication of Supreme Knight Anderson, Msgr. Czarnecki said that by creating the shrine, the Knights of Columbus “made a home for John Paul II.” He added, “I think St. John Paul II is very happy today.”



Minister Maciej Pisarski, charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Poland to the United States, decorates Supreme Knight Carl Anderson with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit.



Guadalupe:

The Miracle and the Message

The Knights of Columbus-produced film *Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message* highlights the story of the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Narrated by actor Jim Caviezel, the documentary uses modern reenactments, 3D animations, and interviews with leading theologians, historians and scientists to provide an unparalleled insight into the intricacies of the centuries-old wonder.

Copies of the documentary may be ordered through knightsgear.com. For more information, visit guadalupefilm.com or follow the hashtag [#guadalupefilm](https://twitter.com/guadalupefilm).

Surpasses, from Page 1

“With each dollar of top-rated insurance in force that our professional agency force adds, additional meaningful security is provided to the families whose livelihoods we protect,” said Anderson.

The \$100 billion milestone caps a year in which the Knights of Columbus set a new record for insurance sales with \$8 billion sold. It also earned rating agency A.M. Best’s top rating, A++ (Superior), for the 40th consecutive year and was named a “World’s Most Ethical Company” for the second consecutive year by the Ethisphere Institute®.

It is among the largest life insurers in North America, manages \$21 billion in assets and ranks 939 on the 2015 *Fortune* 1000 list.



In Solidarity

Christians in the Middle East continue to face persecution and extinction simply for their belief in Jesus Christ. Their fate, however, has largely been ignored by the secular media.

We encourage councils to raise awareness of the refugees' situation through the Solidarity Cross Program. Through this program, councils order 5-inch olive wood crosses (\$5 each, minimum order of 10), crafted by Christians in the Holy Land. They then sell the crosses in their communities for a suggested donation of \$10 each, donating the net proceeds of the sale to the Christian Refugee Relief Fund. To show the importance of this program, the Supreme Council counts the sale of 50 or more crosses as fulfilling two service criteria under the Church Activities section of the Columbian Award.

To participate, please contact the Supply Department at 203-752-4214 or supply@kofc.org. When sending your council's check to the fund, please make it payable to "Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc." and write "Persecuted Christians Solidarity Crosses" on the memo line.

Work with your parishes to arrange special Masses or prayer services for the refugees. Members of the community who have purchased crosses may bring them to the prayer service for a special blessing.

Thank you for helping the Knights of Columbus to stand in solidarity with our persecuted brothers and sisters through participation in this program.



A girl stands on a street inside a refugee camp in Gaza.



Recruit Members and Become a Star

Committing to successful charity and recruitment programs not only serves your community and parish, it also gives you the opportunity to win awards and thus serve as an inspiration to your brother Knights. Councils should work toward earning the Father McGivney, Founders' and Columbian awards, which will allow them to achieve Star Council status. To do so, councils must also submit the *Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728) and the *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365).

Likewise, assemblies that have outstanding achievement in membership and Fourth Degree programs may earn the Star Assembly Award.

To be eligible for this award, an assembly must meet the following criteria:

- Publish a monthly newsletter or bulletin to assembly members, with a copy sent to the vice supreme master
 - Submit the *Report of Officers Chosen* (#186), the *Survey of Fraternal Activity* (#1728) and the *Annual Assembly Audit Report* (#1315)
 - Meet its new member goal
 - Earn the Fourth Degree Civic Award
 - Enter the "To Be a Patriot" competition
- For more information on these awards and forms, please visit kofc.org.

Strong, from Page 1

"For this reason," Supreme Knight Anderson said, "I am asking every council using facilities owned by a home association to undertake a serious assessment of how that relationship supports the council in its fulfillment of the core mission of the Knights of Columbus."

If councils are parish-based, resources could be more successfully directed toward a mission of integrity with the core principles of charity, unity and fraternity.

Moving toward greater integration into the life of our parishes

Councils should begin to end the duplication of programs that compete with parish activities. Instead, Knights of Columbus resources of time, talent and money need to be used to strengthen existing parish-based and parish-sponsored programs.

Working more closely with parish-based youth ministry programs

More than ever before, young people are in need of greater evangelization, catechesis and pastoral care. Councils should be there for their parish's youth, supporting them under the direction and supervision of their parish pastor. Additionally, councils should seek new ways to assist with the activities of parish-based schools.

As part of this new initiative, local units of the Knights of Columbus will no longer sponsor Boy Scout troops. Councils should move to end sponsorship by the end of 2015, but if that is not possible, in no case later than 2016. Instead, local units should encourage troops that they presently sponsor to become parish-sponsored troops. Such new parish-sponsored Boy Scout troops can and should receive the volunteer and financial support of local councils.

Additionally, councils should seek to more closely integrate their youth activities within the goals of the parish. Councils and assemblies in the United States and Canada that do not presently sponsor Squires Circles should not institute new circles. Instead, these local units should support new or existing parish-based youth programs.

When formulating your activities in the coming year, give priority to those that support the Domestic Church initiative, and always seek out ways to involve your wider parish community.

"The content of the Knights of Columbus has not changed," Supreme Knight Anderson said. "We are a Catholic brotherhood based upon the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. We are dedicated to faithful and unparalleled service to the Church. But what will change is the expression of that service so that our work may become even more relevant and effective."

"The changes outlined today may be difficult for some," the Supreme Knight said in his remarks. "Change is never easy. But the proven record of the past half century is clear: The closer the Knights of Columbus becomes to parish life, the closer we work with our parish priests, and the more we support Catholic families, the more our Order has grown in membership and charity."

"The challenge of effective leadership is to lead change, not to be led by change," he continued. "The leadership of the Knights of Columbus has always succeeded in leading change. And this is what I am confident you and I will succeed in doing in the days ahead."

Additional details on this new initiative will be sent to councils in the near future. Also, a complete version of the supreme knight's address is featured in the December 2015 issue of *Columbia*.



Celebrate the True Meaning of Christmas

Bring the true meaning of Christmas to your community through a Knights of Columbus celebration of Joseph and Mary's journey to the place of our Lord's birth. *Journey to the Inn: An Advent Celebration* (#9898, available for \$1 each) provides all the information needed to conduct an event with your family and Knights of Columbus council. Order a copy today by contacting the Supply Department at 203-752-4214.

When advertising your event, ask all invited to share the spirit of Christmas by bringing a non-perishable food item for donation to families in need. Collect and deliver these items to your local food bank or parish food pantry. Be sure to keep track of these collections on the *Food for Families Reimbursement Program* form (#10057) and the *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7). You might also use the opportunity to raise awareness of Christians in need throughout the world by speaking of the refugees unable to openly celebrate the birth of Christ due to religious persecution in the Middle East.



Iraqis re-enact the Nativity at the Ankawa refugee camp near Irbil, Iraq. Last year marked the first time in 1,600 years that Christmas bells did not ring in many Christian villages in the Middle East.



In the New Year, Resolve to Give the Gift of Mobility

More than 10 years ago, the Knights of Columbus began participating in the Global Wheelchair Mission, sponsoring 2,000 wheelchairs to be distributed in Afghanistan. Since then, Knights throughout the world have sponsored the distribution of thousands of wheelchairs to those in need.

For every donation of \$150, the Global Wheelchair Mission can deliver a brand new wheelchair. These wheelchairs — shipped in containers of 100-280 wheelchairs each — are directly delivered to the destination countries at no cost to the recipients.

As the New Year approaches, consider implementing this program as an ongoing charitable event for your council or assembly. You might set a council-wide New Year's resolution to raise a specific dollar amount or number of wheelchairs for the Global Wheelchair Mission. Be sure to report your activities, which may help your council fulfill all four Community Activities requirements for the Columbian Award, on the *Global Wheelchair Report* (#10071).



It's Okay to Say "Merry Christmas!"

“For that vast majority of Americans who observe Christmas, this day and season are a time for us to celebrate the fact that God exists and is with us,” says Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “Saying ‘Merry Christmas’ allows us to celebrate that fact with joy and lets us share this joy with our loved ones and neighbors.”

Keep Christ in Christmas by greeting everyone with “Merry Christmas!” Your council can also share the Christmas message by offering to clean, make repairs to, or provide decorations for its parish. Setting up a Nativity scene on the property of local churches or businesses is also a great way to celebrate the true meaning of the season.

To find out more about the Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas campaign, please visit kofc.org/Christmas.



Help Those in Need This Christmas Season

As Christmas and the New Year approaches, consider sharing the gift of warmth and food for those in need.

Assist your local parish food pantry, community food bank or soup kitchen by conducting a food drive during the Christmas season. For additional information on the Food for Families Program, please contact the Supreme Council at (203) 752-4402.

Your council may also consider organizing a Coats for Kids event in the New Year. For details on how to get involved, visit kofc.org/coats.

Both the Food for Families and Coats for Kids programs are featured programs; councils meeting participation requirements may fulfill the Youth and Family Activities sections of the Columbian Award.



5th Sunday Prayer Service

Celebrate the New Year by inviting brother Knights, their families and local parishes to join together for prayer and community. On Jan. 31, the fifth Sunday of the month, invite members of your parish to join your council for the 5th Sunday Rosary Program. To order the *5th Sunday Rosary Kit* (#SR-KIT) visit kofc.org/5thsunday.

Council are encouraged to use this event to share the faith and fellowship that comes with being a member of the Knights of Columbus. Make your council and its members visible to the parish community by attending Mass as a group before the rosary service begins. You might also provide an honor guard during the Mass or ask your pastor's permission to have officers and members serve as readers, lectors, ushers and choir members.

Councils who have participated in this program in August, November, January and May will fulfill all four Church Activity requirements for the Columbian Award. Report these events on the *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7) and *5th Sunday Rosary Program Report Form* (#10243).

Get Ready for the 43rd Annual March for Life

In the United States, the annual March for Life will be held in Washington, D.C., on Friday, Jan. 22, to call for the overturn of the infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion in the United States.

Every council is encouraged to subsidize marchers or organize a bus for Knights and others wishing to participate in this event. For details on the 2016 March for Life or the March for Life Conference, featuring keynote speaker Helen Gurley Brown, visit marchforlife.org.

College Knights should also plan to attend the 17th annual Cardinal O'Connor Conference on Life, co-sponsored by Georgetown University Council 6375, on Saturday, Jan. 23. The theme of the conference will be "Whose Choice?" Visit oconnorconference.com for more information.

Knights who cannot attend the events in Washington are encouraged to participate in similar pro-life events throughout the country, such as the 11th annual Walk for Life West Coast held in San Francisco on Saturday, Jan. 23. For more information, visit walkforlifewc.com.

In March, Knights from the Philippines will be hosting rallies for life throughout their country, while Canadian Knights will participate in various events in May. For details, visit kofc.org.ph and campaignlifecoalition.com.

When participating in any of these pro-life events, carry council banners and march together as a council. To order Knights of Columbus *Defend Life* signs (#9341), call 203-752-4403 or send an email to william.obrien@kofc.org. Please include your name, address, telephone number and the exact number of signs you wish to order.

The Supreme Council will count a qualifying March or Walk for Life event as fulfilling all four Culture of Life Activities requirements of the Columbian Award. In order to qualify, councils must involve a minimum of 100 Knights, family members, parishioners or students in a local, regional or national March for Life event and complete the Culture of Life section of the *Columbian Award Application* (#SP-7).



All Your Recruitment Video Needs

Looking for some short videos to help peak interest in the Knights? Or short training videos on one-on-one recruiting and earning Star Council status? If the answer is yes, then you'll find what you need at kofc.org/recruit1.

This page includes:

- Short promotional pieces, such as *Be the Difference, So the World May Know New Hope, Legacy, Building the Church* and the new *An Invitation*
- Training videos such as *The Power of One to Recruit*
- A series on earning the Star Council Award
- Remarks from Supreme Knight Carl Anderson on the importance of growing the Knights of Columbus

The videos — available in French, English and Spanish — may be streamed or downloaded. You will need a video player such as Quicktime or RealPlayer to view them.

Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest

The Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, focusing on the importance of religious freedom, is open to all Catholic students currently in grades 8-12 (educated in parochial or public schools, or at home).

Use this contest as a way to encourage young people to explore Catholic citizenship from a variety of perspectives. Display posters (#4209) to advertise the contest in parishes, schools and community centers, and announce the details to local newspapers and radio stations.

The Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest is not only the perfect opportunity for young Catholics to affirm their faith, but also a chance to familiarize families, including potential members, with the Knights of Columbus.

Visit kofc.org/forms or call 203-752-4016 to get your *Essay Contest Kit* (#EA-KIT) today.

Free Throw Championship Prepare Your Council-Level Competition Now

January is the recommended month to hold council-level competitions for the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship, held for all boys and girls ages 9-14. Be sure to consult with your state program director as you choose a date for and organize your contest. Council-level contests must take place before the district, regional or state competitions, the dates of which might vary depending on your location.

Don't forget to advertise your competition by putting up the posters included in the *Free Throw Contest Kit* (#FT-KIT). For more information, visit kofc.org/freethrow.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practical (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. This means that an applicant or member accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church.

Active Councils Are Successful Councils

To have your council's activities featured here, 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 203-752-4264.

St. Mary's of Fresno Council 12555 in Fresno, Calif., held their fifth annual bike repair day for local school children, assisting with flat tire issues and other repairs. The event was funded through donations from the Knights and local VFW Posts.

Father Nicholas Phelan Council 1875 in Grass Valley, Calif., presented a check for \$10,000 to the Neighborhood Center for the Arts, which serves adults with intellectual disabilities. The funds were raised through the council's drive for people with intellectual disabilities and the California State Council's Columbian Foundation.

Assisted by representatives from various pro-life organizations, Father Burggraff Council 6021 in Perry Hall, Md., organized a Cemetery of Innocents memorial at St. Joseph Church. The Knights' midweek prayer service at the pro-life memorial was attended by a large number of participants, including many local youth.



Members of Our Lady of Angels Council 13044 in Allen, Texas, have raised thousands of dollars through concession sales at FC Dallas soccer games during the past eight years. The funds assist the councils' many charitable efforts, including replacing the old hymnals at Our Lady of Angels Church. After being repaired, the old hymnals were donated to the student choir at St. Bernard of Clairvaux School in Dallas.

Msgr. Lavelle Council 4571 in Streetsboro, Ohio, initiated their new Backpacks for the Homeless program. The backpacks — which council members fill with canned and packaged food, toiletries, blankets, raincoats and other necessities — are given to the Dorothy Day House in Youngstown and the Center of Hope food bank in Ravenna. There, they are distributed to the homeless in need. Many Knights also have begun to carry the backpacks, personally offering them to homeless individuals in the area.

Members of St. Paul the Apostle Council 15365 in Horseshoe Bay, Texas, pose after raising the flag at a ceremony at the parish's Armed Forces



Honor Garden. Instrumental in raising funds for the garden, the Knights helped to erect a statue of Christ embracing a soldier. The parish and council are working to raise further funds for additional memorial stars, plaques and paving stones to complete the memorial garden.

Members of St. Bonaventure Council 12240 in Davie, Fla., helped Habitat for Humanity of Broward with landscaping and cleaning a residential complex that will house local families in need.



St. Charles Borromeo Council 12818 in Houston served lunch at the local Ronald McDonald House. This year, the council also hosted their Admission Degree Exemplification in Spanish and held their first Father's Day dinner dance. Attendees had the opportunity to win gift cards and other raffles prizes donated and funded by the council.

Grand-Mère Council 1209 in Quebec organized a free picnic event for local families, which included food, music, activities and games. The council also donated more than \$6,000 to assist the family of Amélie Goulet, who was diagnosed with leukemia and other major health issues.

Msgr. J.B. Gleissner Council 1834 in Bryan, Texas, presented its Special Education Scholarship to several local students, who each received \$1,000. The scholarship is for high school seniors pursuing college, vocational school, job training or other forms of continued education. The scholarship was established by the council in 2011.

St. Stephen Council 9282 in Hermitage, Tenn., recently hosted a Knights Night at the Challenger League, an event which recognized the league's work with people with physical and intellectual disabilities. At the event, the Knights presented a check for \$1,500 to help fund the league's continued efforts in the local area.



Prince of Peace Council 13457 in Flowery Branch, Ga., joined more than 400 Prince of Peace parishioners and friends at a local Gwinnett Braves game where Deacon Nicholas Johnson, a member of the council, threw the first pitch. The Knights coordinated ticket sales, which helped raise more than \$1,700 to benefit Amigos for Christ in organizing water distribution projects in Nicaragua.

Prince of Peace Foothills Council 9184 in Taylors, S.C., held a Luck of the Irish Casino Night to benefit Birthright Greenville. Attendees enjoyed an evening of casino-style games, silent and live auctions, food and fun. The council raised \$5,000 to help fund the pro-life organization's ongoing work and have plans to make the Casino Night an annual fundraising event.

Big Thompson Council 3434 in Loveland, Colo., hosted their annual Boars & Brews event. The Knights were assisted by more than 190 volunteers, including members of the council and St. John the Evangelist Parish. More than \$29,000 was raised through the event, with the funds supporting Special Olympics, World Youth Day, St. John's School and various scouting programs.



Protect Your Family With Knights of Columbus Insurance

\$100 Billion: A Milestone in Protection

Editor's note: The following is an interview with Supreme Knight Carl Anderson regarding the Knights of Columbus surpassing \$100 billion of life insurance in force, an important milestone in the Catholic fraternal benefit society's mission to protect the future of Catholic families.

What does this achievement mean for the Knights of Columbus?

I think it is a testament to three things: the quality of our business, the trust our members have in the Knights of Columbus, and our dedicated agents who represent us in the field.

For the first, we strive to run our insurance program in a way that is different. That means we put people before dollars, and we do the right things for the right reasons. That is what we mean when we say insurance by brother Knights for brother Knights. That is our promise. That is the Knights of Columbus difference. And that is what gives us our advantage.

In regard to our members, the achievement is an obvious indication that they trust us and that our products meet their needs. We are grateful for that trust, and we take that trust very seriously. We have more than 2,000,000 active contracts that represent the financial futures of hundreds of thousands of Catholic families across the United States and Canada. It is a great honor.

As for our agents — this achievement would never have been possible without them. We do not sell our products directly to our members; we sell through our network of dedicated full-time brother Knight agents who work tirelessly day after day to make sure every Knights of Columbus family has the protection they need. These men have done tremendous work. The best thing about doing business with the Knights of Columbus is that you have one of our brother Knight field agents there for you.

What does this achievement mean for our members?

To our members, it should be a point of pride. We are the only Catholic life insurer to have achieved this milestone. Our members can see that the Knights of Columbus is in a class by itself. And for our members who have yet to take part in the insurance program, this achievement encourages them to consider participating in this important fraternal benefit. There has never been a better time to turn to the Knights of Columbus to help secure your family's future.

What is the significance of the number itself, of surpassing \$100 billion of life insurance in force?

This number is the total sum of the face amount of all of our active policies. But perhaps that is not the best way to think about it.

What this number represents is the future hopes and financial security of our members and their families. Yes, it means \$100 billion of life insurance in force, but it also means \$100 billion to protect lives and to save homes. It's \$100 billion of trust and of financial protection for our Catholic families.

When it became clear to you that the \$100 billion milestone was within reach, that the Order would surpass it, what went through your mind?

I can say I was not surprised. I was not surprised because I knew the way we were doing business was the right way. I knew that, as a company, we were motivated by the right things, focused on the right things and

doing the right things, and I knew our members would trust us.

Our progress has been steady and consistent. We have set a new record for sales each year for the last 14 years. That statistic is remarkable when you stop to think about it. The last 14 years have seen some major financial crises, and yet the Knights of Columbus has kept moving forward, has never looked back and has never faltered.

Every January, I get the opportunity to address our general agents, and I begin my remarks to them each year in the exact same way. I tell them, "Thank you for making last year the best year in the history of the Knights of Columbus insurance program." It is a great honor to be able to do that.

What niche does the Knights of Columbus fill in the insurance marketplace?

The Knights of Columbus is the premier Catholic life insurer in North America. We are Catholic in the way we do business — we do not invest in companies that participate in abortions, contraception, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, for-profit health care that pays for the aforementioned, or pornography. And we are Catholic in the way we give back, too. The Knights of Columbus has donated more than \$1.55 billion to charity in the last decade, much of which was made possible by the proceeds of the insurance business. In fact, a lot of the good work we do is made possible by the success of our insurance program. It is a powerful engine that, along with the ongoing efforts of our brother Knights and their councils throughout the world, makes the Knights of Columbus who we are.

What do you think Father McGivney would think of the insurance program today?

He would be proud. This is very much his program. He was looking for a solution to the never-ending financial suffering of widows and orphans in his parish. He labored over the details of the original insurance program. He studied other fraternal benefit societies to see what their programs looked like. He knew this benefit was needed, and he knew that it could provide tremendous value.

Don't forget, he himself was a man who had to leave the seminary and return home when his father died unexpectedly. The need for this type of fraternal benefit was very real to him.

He wanted to build up Catholic families — not only in faith, fellowship and charity, but in finances, too. I think he would be tremendously proud of how his organization has carried on his mission.

What's next for the program?

We continue to move forward. This is a tremendous milestone and a tremendous accolade. And it is an outstanding testament to all the things I mentioned, but it is by no means the end. We have never been motivated by numbers or by dollars.

That will not end at \$200 billion. It will not end at \$300 billion.

What remains important is that we continue forward with Father McGivney's vision to protect our Catholic families.

To learn more about Knights of Columbus Insurance, contact a Knights of Columbus field agent. Find him at kofc.org/findagent.

Knightline

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

1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326

*Merry Christmas
to You and Your Family*



“May the Holy Spirit today enlighten our hearts, that we may recognize in the Infant Jesus, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary, the salvation given by God to each one of us.”

— Pope Francis



Knights of Columbus
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Making a difference for life.

Find an agent at kofc.org
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