

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

Our Greatest Fraternal Benefit – Us

The new Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish initiative will set the course for the Knights of Columbus moving forward, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson told the gathered K of C leaders at the 2016 Organizational Meeting of State Deputies.

He explained that this initiative may lead to multitudes of families coming together in prayer, Scripture study, catechesis and charitable service. Because of this, every council must adopt the initiative. It will not only make the Order more attractive to young fathers and their families, but will also allow parish priests to see what a council can bring to the parish.

This initiative, supported by materials such as Bishop Thomas Olmsted's apostolic exhortation *Into the Breach*, "will help our councils break any stereotypes still associated with the Knights and help them open wide their doors and invite more of their fellow parishioners in," the supreme knight said.

"People join the Catholic Church by attraction," the supreme knight continued. "In the same way, men join the Knights of Columbus by attraction. We have to be the men that others want to be with, men who stand for something, men who mean what they say, men who practice a charity that evangelizes. That is our greatest attraction — us."

Earlier in the business session, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore also spoke of the importance of the Domestic Church initiative and the Knights' role as inheritors of Father Michael McGivney's vision.

Even though the world has changed since the Knights of Columbus' founding, Archbishop Lori explained, members of the Order must continue to carry out Father McGivney's mission.

"If we are serious about moving ahead with what God has given us through the ministry of our founder, Father McGivney, then we will recognize that more is required of us than reverence for the past. We need to see how the role which the Knights are called to play in the Church's life has not remained stagnant but rather has expanded and grown more dynamic." *see Benefit, Page 2*



Supreme Knight Carl Anderson delivers his address at the 2016 Organizational Meeting of State Deputies.

Charitable Records Set

Knights' charitable giving and volunteer hours grow for 17th year

The Knights of Columbus set an all-time record last year for charitable donations and service hours, with \$175,079,192 in donations and more than 73.4 million hours of service. The numbers were announced at the closing session of the annual Organizational Meeting of State Deputies in New Haven.

Donations grew by more than \$1.5 million since 2014, which marks an increase in giving for the 17th consecutive year. The number of service hours also rose by more than a million over the previous year's total, according to the Knights of Columbus Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity for the year ending Dec. 31, 2015.

The top 10 jurisdictions in charitable giving (from highest to lowest) were Texas, California, Florida, Quebec, Illinois, Michigan, Ontario, New York, Missouri and New Jersey. For volunteer hours, the top 10 were Luzon North, Texas, Illinois, Florida, California, Luzon South, Ontario, Michigan, Visayas and Pennsylvania.

For more information, please visit kofc.org.

Grand Knight Checklist – July & August

- ✓ Plan for your council's participation in Knights of Columbus Family Week (Aug. 8-14) and the International World Day of Prayer for Peace (Sept. 11).
- ✓ Organize your membership recruitment team and create a 12-month recruitment plan.
- ✓ Prepare the following reports:
 - *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365), due Aug. 1
 - *Semiannual Council Audit Report* (#1295), due Aug. 15

Audit Due in August

This period's *Semiannual Council Audit Report* (#1295) and *Service Program Personnel Report* (#365) are due at the Supreme Council headquarters by Aug. 15. If council trustees have not yet submitted these forms, make sure they send them immediately to the Fraternal Mission Department. The forms may be accessed at kofc.org/forms or in the *Council Report Forms Booklet* (#1436).



“The ISIS Genocide Declaration: What Next?”

For the third time in the past several months, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson testified before Congress, this time before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs’ Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

At the hearing, he described the situation in Iraq and Syria. “Many of the region’s indigenous communities now face extinction. These communities may disappear in less than a decade,” Mr. Anderson warned lawmakers.

It’s a dire situation, he said, “but their fate is not inevitable.” The United States can avert this crisis by acting according to six principles:

1. Increase humanitarian aid and provide oversight to ensure it gets to those targeted for genocide.
2. Support the long-term survival of indigenous religious and ethnic communities by supporting their right to remain in their country.
3. Punish the perpetrators of genocide and crimes against humanity.
4. Assist the victims of genocide in attaining refugee status.
5. Make preparations to ensure that Christians and other minorities have equal rights in deciding their future as ISIS-controlled territory is liberated.
6. Promote the establishment of internationally agreed upon standards of human rights and religious freedom as conditions for humanitarian and military assistance.



Supreme Knight Anderson delivers his statement at a hearing before the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.

Supreme Knight Anderson also reported that neither the U.S. government nor the United Nations have offered financial assistance to respond to the crisis of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and urban refugees.

He explained that private charities have responded to the humanitarian need, but the assistance of governments and international organizations is nevertheless vital. Without the assistance of Church-affiliated agencies, he continued, those persecuted would face “a catastrophic humanitarian tragedy within 30 days.”

The hearing before the subcommittee was titled “The ISIS Genocide Declaration: What Next?” and included additional testimony from Sarhang Hamasaeed, senior program officer for the U.S. Institute of Peace; Johnny Oram, executive director of the Chaldean Assyrian Business Alliance; and David Crane, professor at the Syracuse University College of Law.

Supreme Knight Anderson appeared before the same subcommittee in December to raise awareness of the persecution of Christians in Iraq and Syria and to call for the Department of State to label these atrocities as genocide.

The State Department also received a nearly 300-page report, submitted by the Knights, that detailed the brutality which Christians and other minorities have experienced at the hands of ISIS. The report was credited by officials as having been influential in the declaration of genocide made by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. House of Representatives in mid-March.

After submitting the report, Supreme Knight Anderson was invited to testify in Congress before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to suggest a path forward for the victims of genocide.

For information on how you can help these persecuted Christians, visit ChristiansatRisk.org.



At the start of the opening business session, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori addresses the meeting attendees.

Benefit, from Page 1

He continued, “We have to pay close attention to the serious spiritual needs of men, especially young men who have completed their formal education, who are beginning new jobs and careers, and who are either recently married or thinking about getting married.”

The supreme chaplain also cited *Into the Breach*, saying that it is “perfectly suited to the mission of the Knights of Columbus” as seen by Father McGivney. The document is a guide for any Catholic man who is “willing to engage in the spiritual warfare necessary to be a good husband and father and a good disciple who spreads the Gospel by word and by example.”

Prior to the business session, state deputies and their wives gathered at St. Mary’s Church for a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Lori. He reminded the Order’s leaders that it is not enough for state deputies to be problem-solvers; they need to exemplify the first principle of the Order — charity — to truly bear witness to the charity of Christ through their service to the Church and those in need.

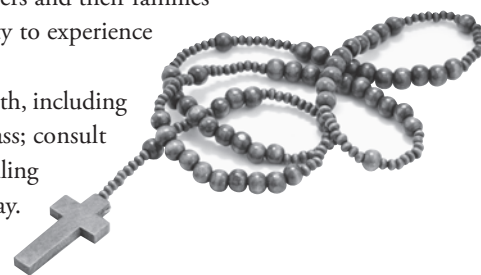
Immediately after Communion, Archbishop Lori blessed the medals of office at the altar, which the supreme knight conferred on 38 state deputy-elects and on the first territorial deputy from Ukraine.



The 5th Sunday Rosary Program

Encourage greater devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary through the 5th Sunday Rosary Program. The program, which developed as part of the Order's Domestic Church initiative, offers a great opportunity for Knights of Columbus members and their families to strengthen their faith. A Marian program of this sort may also give parish families an opportunity to experience the faith and fellowship that comes with being a member of the Order.

To participate in the program, lead a community rosary each time a fifth Sunday falls within a month, including this July 31. The rosary should be led in your parish church immediately before or after Sunday Mass; consult your pastor and/or council chaplain to arrange a suitable time. Should parish activities present a scheduling conflict, it is suitable to hold the rosary prayer service on the closest available day to the fifth Sunday. Also, should the church not be available, the community should be invited to pray the rosary in your parish hall or council meeting place.



To help your council conduct this Church Activity, kits containing a supply of rosary rings, promotional materials and prayer cards on how to pray the rosary are available from the Supreme Council.

By conducting this program on each of the fifth Sundays during the 2016-2017 fraternal year, your council will qualify as fulfilling all four Church Activity requirements of the Columbian Award. For more information regarding the 5th Sunday Rosary or to order a program kit, please contact Supply at supply@kofc.org.

Social Media 101: Capturing That “Kodak Moment”

A recent study has found that online visual content is viewed 94 percent more often than online textual content.* In light of this staggering statistic, every council with a Facebook page should make posting good photos a priority in order to boost engagement from your audience.

So, how do you take a “good” photo? With a smartphone and these few tips, every photo you take for your council's Facebook page can be great!

Capture the Action

Great photos capture the action of the moment. Rather than posing for a “grip and grin” photo of your council's grand knight presenting a check to the director of a food pantry, take a photo of council members helping to stock shelves.

Turn On Your Grid

Today's smartphones have many features that help the amateur photographer take images that look professional. By enabling the “grid” application on your phone's camera, you can keep a level sightline in your photos. To optimize images, your subject should intersect at least four of the grid squares and not be focused solely in the center of the grid.

Keep It Timely

The wonderful thing about using your smartphone to capture pictures is that you can upload photos to your council's Facebook page within a few moments of snapping them. This quick turnaround time will ensure maximum relevance of these images to your audience.

Remember Privacy Rules

Finally, always keep in mind the Order's guidelines for privacy when taking and posting photos. Ask permission before taking photos of participants at your event and make them aware that photos may be posted online. Be especially sure to get permission from parents before photographing any minors. Never “tag” participants in photos you post.

**Hubspot.com, 2015*



Show the World That Families Matter

Knights of Columbus Family Week, held this year Aug. 8-14, is a special opportunity for our Order to recognize families for what they are: domestic churches that give life to the parish and community. Through organizing a variety of programs during the week, Knights show their appreciation of families as the backbone of community and the heart of Christian life.

If you have not yet begun organizing your council's events, visit kofc.org for suggestions on activities to hold during Family Week. Don't forget to advertise the events, making sure to promote activities that highlight the Order's mission and which are fun for the entire parish and community.

For more information on the importance of each family as a domestic church, visit kofc.org/domesticchurch.



Start Planning Your Essay Contest

The Knights of Columbus Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest helps young people explore their faith and learn the importance of religious freedom. An excellent project for schools and home-educated students alike, the essay contest is easily adapted into an academic curriculum.

Now is the time to order the *Essay Contest Kit* (#EA-KIT), which contains materials for up to 50 participants. Teachers may review the materials and assign the subject to their students. In November, pick up the finished essays and create a panel of judges consisting of council members who will assign grades in the areas of content, grammar and style. Winners may move on to regional and state levels.

For information on the higher levels of competition, contact Ed Wezenski (203-752-4703 or edward.wezenski@kofc.org) or visit kofc.org/essay.



Your Council Can Achieve the Star Council Award

In 1882, Father Michael J. McGivney saw that the needs of his parishioners were too great for him to meet by himself. That is why he brought a handful of parish leaders together to address the essential needs of the community: food, shelter, clothing and spiritual support.

Today, councils are likewise called to help provide for the needs of parishes and communities. By organizing programs under the categories of Church, Community, Council, Culture of Life, Family and Youth, the Order has arranged a simple yet effective way for councils to provide meaningful help to families and communities.

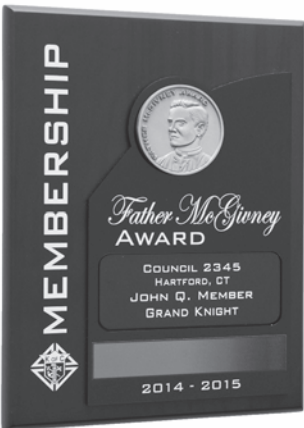
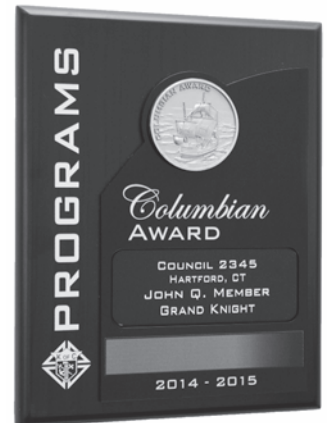
Councils that participate in these programs and activities are recognized as fulfilling Father McGivney's vision, which is why your council should strive to earn the Star Council Award. Measuring excellence in membership, insurance promotion and program activity, this award represents a true benchmark of what makes a Knights of Columbus council outstanding.

To earn the Star Council Award during this new fraternal year, councils must earn the Father McGivney Award, the Founders' Award and the Columbian Award, so your council should get started right away. If you haven't already done so, schedule a meeting with the key leaders in your council — including your district deputy and field agent — to set up your game plan for earning the Star Council Award in 2016-17.

COLUMBIAN AWARD

To qualify, 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, conduct and report a single featured program in each Service Program category. Remember, featured programs include the Refund Support Vacations Program (RSVP), Habitat for Humanity and the Global Wheelchair Mission, Special Olympics, the Ultrasound Initiative and March for Life events, Food for Families and Coats for Kids. After conducting your programs, you must complete and submit the *Columbian Award Application* (#SP7), found in the *Council Report Forms Booklet* (#1436) or at kofc.org/forms. Submit this form immediately following the completion of your council programs to guarantee timely and accurate records.

Visit kofc.org/service for detailed instructions regarding the programs.



FATHER MCGIVNEY AWARD

Earn this award by gaining a 7 percent increase in membership, or a minimum of four net members, as of July 1 to achieve 100 percent quota for membership. Double Star Councils, which reach 200 percent of their membership quota, or Triple Star Councils, which achieve 300 percent of their quota, also qualify for the Father McGivney Award.

Recruit additional prospects in case your council experiences an unexpected drop in membership, looking to the family members of existing Knights as potential candidates. Make sure to schedule an Admission Degree exemplification between now and the fraternal year's end. If you don't have a degree team, utilize the Admission Degree DVD, available via Officers Online. Order candidate items and certificates well before the degree and present them to new Knights at the exemplification.

FOUNDERS' AWARD

To earn this award, councils must achieve their insurance membership quota as of July 1, with all membership and insurance transactions received, processed, recorded and released at Supreme Council headquarters by June 30.

The quota for councils is a 2.5 percent net increase or a minimum of three new insurance members. Be sure to confirm with your insurance agent that you have enough recruits to cover unexpected drops in insurance membership. Work with him to schedule a fraternal benefits night with the council and invite him to all of your council's events, especially every Admission Degree exemplification. Pay special attention to covering the benefits of Knights of Columbus Insurance with new fathers in your parish and council, explaining how the products can help protect their family's financial future.



Update Your Council Website Today

Be sure your council members are able to access the information they need: Update your council's website to include new links to the redesigned Supreme Council website. Although some of your current links will redirect to the new website, most will not. Council webmasters should confirm that each link properly corresponds to the correct webpage. Or, simply link directly to the homepage at kofc.org.

Council Officer Success Planning

What can you do to help plan successful council events? Success planning starts with officers working together as a team. Through cooperation, council officers can achieve greater outcomes than any individual acting alone. By focusing on successful outcomes, council officers will also build a positive council culture that attracts others.

The Supreme Council office will host a fraternal officer training webinar titled “Council Officer Success Planning” on Saturday, July 23, 2016, at 2 p.m. It is intended for all council officers.

This one-hour presentation will cover:

- Leadership strategies to promote successful outcomes
- Effective use of your *Fraternal Leader Success Planner* (#5033)
- Using council officer meetings to brainstorm and plan effectively

We hope you are able to join us July 23 for this online training. Even if you are unable to attend, registered participants may access the recorded webinar at a later date. To register, please visit kofc.org/webinar.

Please feel free to get the word out to any council leader who might be interested. If you have questions regarding this training, email gary.nolan@kofc.org or call (203) 752-4270.

Degree Folder

A new *Degree Folder* (#10374) will now be included in the *Candidate Kit* (#531). Be sure to distribute these folders to candidates at the First, Second and Third degrees. These folders are designed to hold the appropriate Degree Certificate, Membership Document and 10 Keys to Membership Recruitment Success flyer. For more information on the contents of this folder, contact Supply at supply@kofc.org.



Convention Insider

This August, even if you're unable to make it to the Knights of Columbus 134th Supreme Convention, you can still experience what makes these three days the highlight of the fraternal year.

August 2-4, 2016, from the comfort of your own home, look to kofc.org for daily reports on events as they unfold in Toronto. Featuring news briefs, photos, and links to live streaming video, the K of C webpage is your premiere source for inside coverage.

Details on schedules and participating networks, such as EWTN and its broadcast of the Supreme Knight's Address, will also be posted as they become available, so be sure to check in on the days leading up to the convention.

Fraternal Leader Success

At every level the fraternal leader is to act in the capacity of both a catalyst and a resource, enabling his council to achieve sustainable membership growth and providing opportunities for faith formation and leadership development. And so, to help you guide your council to success in serving parish and community, we provide the *Fraternal Leader Success Planner* (#5033).

As a fraternal leader in your council, district or jurisdiction, you can use this planner to make good use of your time and focus your action. Consistent activity throughout a 12-month fraternal year will help every council, district and jurisdiction grow in its charitable outreach. Additionally, each should grow in its number of members, as they are an excellent source of new ideas and programs to adopt and implement.

Use the *Fraternal Leader Success Planner* to:

- Plan ahead to communicate clearly
- Keep on track with the vision and mission of the Order
- Determine what needs to be done immediately, planned in the coming weeks and promoted in the months ahead in order to achieve success
- Measure your progress and determine the changes needed to chart a more successful course
- Seek opportunities to integrate membership, programming and charitable activities

When you need assistance, always consult with other fraternal leaders in your area first. If you require additional assistance, the Supreme Council headquarters can help. You may reach us at 203-752-4270 or via email at fraternalservices@kofc.org. Additional information can be found on our website, kofc.org.





Can't Find Your Submission? Take a Look in *Columbia*

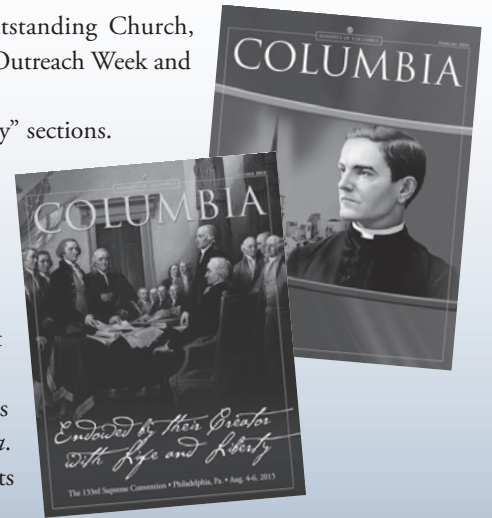
For the past several years, *Knightline* has welcomed council submissions that highlight outstanding Church, Community, Council, Culture of Life, Family and Youth activities. We've also featured several Outreach Week and Year of Mercy events that stress councils' participation in extending the Church's message of mercy.

Unfortunately, *Knightline* will no longer include the "Active Council" or "Actively Sharing Mercy" sections.

All qualifying stories that have not yet been published will be passed on to our editors at *Columbia* magazine for their consideration in the Knights in Action section, either on the website or in the printed magazine.

As *Columbia* has a large audience — far beyond the members of the Order who read *Knightline* — this change will better spread the word about the great services you're performing in your communities. Your story, in reaching a wider audience, will be able to inspire more people to commit to similar services.

Before sharing any news, be sure to consult your grand knight, council officers and any members involved in the activity to ensure that the information has not yet already been submitted to *Columbia*. For further details on submitting reports, please write to knightsinaction@kofc.org or visit the Knights in Action page on kofc.org, found under the News drop-down menu.



Gain New Members Through a Church Drive

It makes sense to look for new members in the place you're most likely to find them — your parish. One efficient and proven way to do this is to organize a Church Recruitment Drive Weekend.

To begin planning for the event, first get permission from your pastor to hold the drive at your parish following all weekend Masses. Once permission is received, order drive materials using the order form found at kofc.org/drive.



Ordering Items

Order supply materials through Knights Gear. At this site, you will find coats for your council's Coats for Kids events and other items mentioned in this newsletter. To order these products through your council's account, please visit kofc.org. After signing into Officers Online, click on the Knights Gear logo. Questions regarding pricing or ordering should be directed to the Supply Department at 203-752-4214 or supply@kofc.org.



Habitat for Humanity

The Knights of Columbus enthusiastically supports the mission of Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit Christian organization that provides safe, personal shelter to needy families around the world. Habitat for Humanity not only helps people to become homeowners, but also actively involves them in the preparation of their new house. If your council donates both \$1,000 and 200 man hours to Habitat for Humanity, it will fulfill all four requirements for the Community Activities category of the Columbian Award.



Refund for Hunger Outreach Programs

The Supreme Council continues to refund \$100 for every \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food donated to food banks, food pantries and soup kitchens, up to a maximum refund of \$500 per council per fraternal year. Indicated contributions of food and/or money should be cumulative for the fraternal year. Participation in this program may qualify a council to fulfill all four of the Family Activity requirements for the Columbian Award.



Order Soccer Challenge Materials Now

Now is the time to order the *Soccer Challenge Kit* (#SC-KIT), which contains rulebooks, entry forms, advertisement materials, and certificates for up to 75 participants. When ordering, please specify the number of kits required and the date by which you need to receive the kit.

When setting a date for your event, remember to schedule your challenge before the district, region or state events. Contact your district deputy regarding the dates of the district-level events. Should your district not hold a soccer challenge, then your council winner may proceed directly to regionals. In smaller jurisdictions, participants may skip right to state contests, which are usually held in November. Your state program director can provide details on regional and state competition dates and locations.

If you have general questions about the contest, please visit kofc.org/service.





Protect Your Family With Knights of Columbus Insurance

Fraternity and Insurance: A Life-Changing Combination

One hundred and thirty-four years ago, Father Michael J. McGivney worked to protect Catholic families.

Now, in 2016, Father McGivney's mission has taken on several different shapes and services, including charitable works, evangelical missions, catechetical programs and, of course, our insurance program.

Together, these things form the core of the Knights of Columbus.

Guided always by our fraternal principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, we are most effective when the different aspects of our organization operate in conjunction with each other. When the Knights who lead our programs work together, the results can be truly life-changing — not just locally, but globally.

This summer, as we embark on a new fraternal year, spend time with your field agent and general agent to coordinate your activities.

Your Knights of Columbus Insurance agents are tremendous resources for you and your council. For these men, the Knights of Columbus is more than just a career, it's a vocation, and they are deeply committed to furthering Father McGivney's mission in all its facets.

Ask for their help with membership drives during Sunday Masses. Seek out their assistance with various committees and fundraisers. Lean on them to help supply manpower for hands-on charitable events. Open the door and welcome them. Invite them to full participation in your council life.

Remember, these men work tirelessly to serve the members in their area. Although they may not always be able to take part in each and every initiative, they want to be involved with their councils as much as possible.

As a professionally trained Knights of Columbus field agent, your agent brings tremendous value to your council and to your members. He also brings with him a full product portfolio of high quality insurance products. He holds the key to the greatest fraternal benefit of all: the insurance program.

The men in your council will no doubt be at various stages of life, with varying needs and varying means, but surely most of them will at some point look for life insurance protection, retirement products, disability income or long-term care insurance. When they do, why would they look anywhere besides their very own Knights of Columbus?

But the truth is, many of your council's members probably don't think about our insurance business. They may have met with a field agent once or twice during their time as Knights, but they probably don't know about our current full line of products. They probably don't know about our 40 consecutive years of receiving the highest possible rating for financial strength, A++ (Superior), from A.M. Best. They probably don't know about our being named a "World's Most Ethical Company" in 2014, 2015 and 2016. They may not even know of Father McGivney's vision of financial protection for Catholic families.

But they should.

When your members are in the market for insurance products, they have a choice. They can purchase from one of more than 1,500 life insurance companies in North America, who will do whatever they choose with their premium dollars and invest in whatever offers them the best returns, or they can purchase from their Knights of Columbus, who will invest ethically and donate generously. It's what we call "The Catholic Difference."

What would it mean to your members to know that the money they spend protecting their family, preserving their retirement, guarding against their disability or providing for their long-term care goes to an organization that supports the Church? To an organization that has donated more than \$1.5 billion to charity in the past decade? What would it mean to your members to know that their insurance purchase will someday not only change the lives of their family, but maybe even the lives of families halfway across the world?

Invite your field agent in to talk about the Catholic difference. Set up a fraternal benefits night where he can address the council on our slate of products and the benefits that they bring to Catholic families. Welcome him as a Knight. He, too, is deeply committed — not only to protecting Catholic families financially, but also to standing up for the marginalized, standing up for the poor, and standing with the Church.

New years are times for new resolutions. As you embark on the new 2016 fraternal year, resolve to incorporate your field agent into your council life so that your members have the opportunity to profit from our greatest fraternal benefit.

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

Surge Service Cards

Financial secretaries should have received wallet-size cards which list the Surge webpages and others that members should frequently visit throughout the year. These cards should be distributed to council officers as they replace the Surge with Service CDs that were distributed in past years.



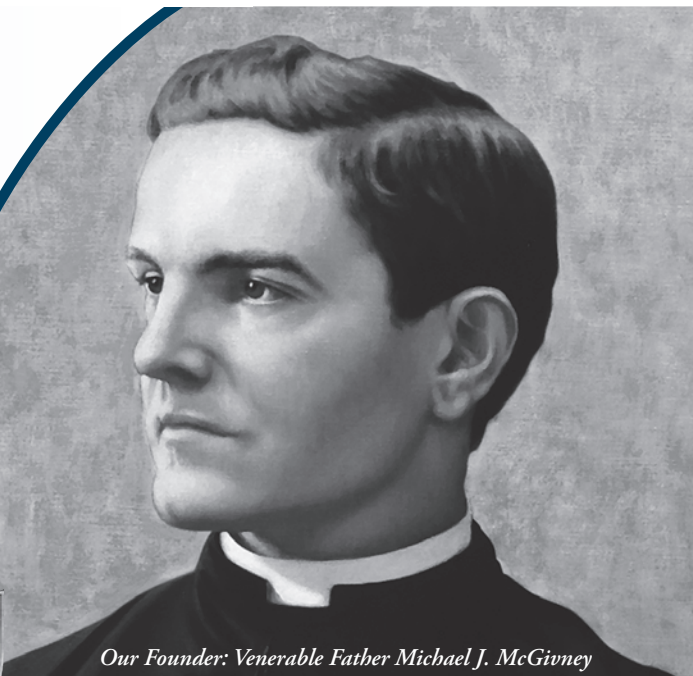
Knightline

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Different for a reason

Discover the Catholic difference
of doing business with the
Knights of Columbus.



Our Founder: Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney



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